
Delicious in Dungeon
RYOKO KUI
12

Delicious in Dungeon

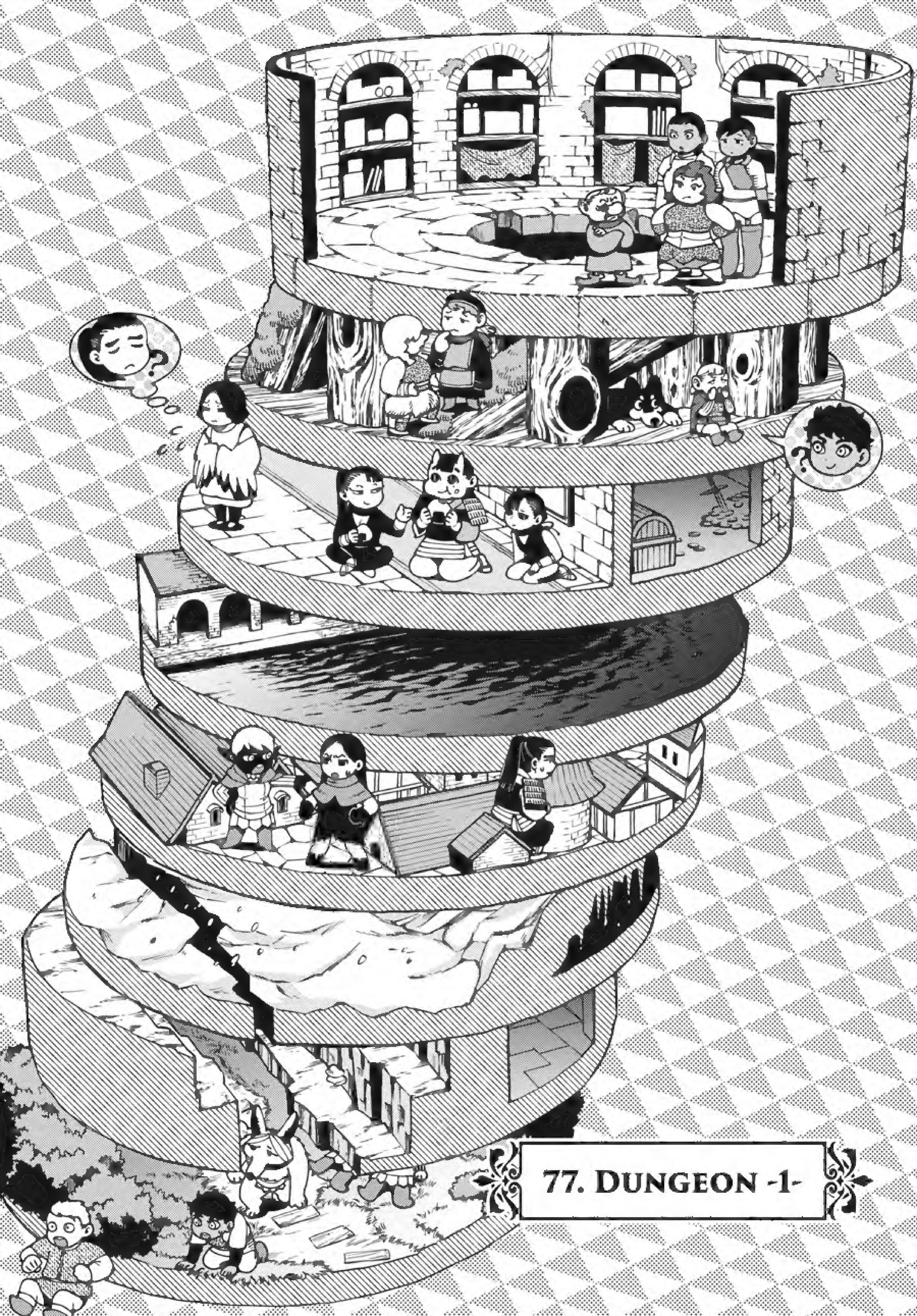
Ryoko Kui

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Contents



77. Dungeon -1-


......THIS IS WHY I SAID NOT TO CHARGE AHEAD ON YOUR OWN...
HUHN!? I DIDN'T QUITE CATCH THAT!!
SAY IT AGAIN, I DARE YOU!!
WE FELL INTO THAT PIT ON THE FIRST FLOOR YESTERDAY.
WE LOST OUR WAY, COULDN'T GET BACK...
I SAID, IT'S YOUR FAULT THIS HAPPENED.
IT'S WHAT !?
...AND FOR THE CROWNING BLOW—
SHUT UP!
ZA (SKF)


QUIET DOWN, OR I'M FEEDING YOU TO THE WARGS.
...WE GOT CAPTURED BY ORCS.
YOU TALK BIG, BUT CAN YOU BACK IT UP?
HMPH.
IF YOU WANT A FIGHT, BRING IT.
...YOU PEOPLE ARE HOS-TAGES.
YOU'RE GOING TO GET US OUT OF THE DUNGEON SAFELY.
OUT OF THE DUNGEON ...?
IT'S GONE ALL FUNNY LATELY.
WE DON'T WANT TO GO, BUT WE HAVE TO.
WE CAN'T STAY HERE ANY LONGER.
BUT IF WE TRY TO LEAVE, THE HUMANS WILL STOP US.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HOS-TAGES!
I DON'T THINK THAT WILL WORK...
...... Hello?
Are you there?


—Can anyone hear me?
This is Pattadol.
IS THAT A FRIEND? ANSWER HER.
DON'T SAY ANYTHING STUPID.
...FLAMELA HERE. WHAT DO YOU NEED, PATTADOL?
We're with an adventurer who may have defeated the dungeon lord.
We're getting his story now.
THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN HAS BEEN DEFEATED...!?
IT CAN'T BE.
The subject's name is...



That is all. I'll report in again!
PUTSU (CLICK)
...Laios?
PSST... PSST...
Laios Touden!
LAIOS!!?
LAIOS!?
LAIOS?
HUH!?


LAIOS TOOK DOWN THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN!?
SHH!
NOT SO LOUD!
I OVERHEARD THE ELVES GOSSIPING ABOUT IT.
THEY SAID ALL THIS STRANGENESS IS PROOF THAT THE DUNGEON'S LORD HAS FALLEN.
THERE'S NO WAY...
LAIOS DID?
WHAT, THAT MR. LAIOS?
LAIOS?
S-SO, UH...
HISO
HISO (PSST)
...WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
THE TOUDENS?
WAIT, THE BOSS'S ...?
IF HE COMES BACK TO THE SURFACE QUIETLY, THEN ALL'S WELL.
NO DOUBT THE LORD OF THE ISLAND WILL GIVE HIM A MEDAL AND THE BOUNTY.
HUH... THAT'S ALL...?
WAIT. "IF HE COMES BACK"?
WHY WOULDN'T HE COME BACK?


I IMAGINE THE ELVES FEAR...
...HE WILL BECOME THE NEW LORD OF THE DUNGEON.
HUH!?
...IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
WELL, IT...ISN'T IMPOSSIBLE.
IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR DUNGEONS TO GAIN NEW LORDS.
THOSE LORDS CAN MANIPULATE THE DUNGEON'S INTERIOR AT WILL.
I BESTOW MY ENTIRE KINGDOM—
"...UPON THE ONE WHO DEFEATS THE MAGICIAN." IS THAT WHAT THAT MEANT?
...NAH, LAIOS DOESN'T CARE ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT!
SERIOUSLY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
HA HA HA!
ARE YOU SURE?
WHAT ABOUT HIS COMPANIONS?
ENIGMA
GREEDY
NN
THAT SAID, WHEN THE LORD CHANGES, SO DOES THE DUNGEON.
IF YOU NOTICE ANYTHING ODD, REPORT IT AT ONCE.
YEAH, YEAH...
OH, RIGHT.


A FEW DAYS AGO, THIS GUY SHURO FELL INTO THAT PIT...
...AND HE HASN'T COME BACK.
I DO FEEL SORRY ABOUT THAT.
I KNOW THAT!
THE THING IS, HE'S A FRIEND OF MINE.
WE'RE GONNA GO FIND HIM.
UU... YOUNG MASTER...
WE'LL BE BACK IN A DAY OR TWO.
I'LL KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ANY WEIRDNESS WHILE I'M DOWN THERE.
ANYWAY, I'M OFF—
TO (TMP)
GURA (LURCH)
WHOA !!
ZUGO (RUMBLE)
GO
ANOTHER TREMOR !?
YORO (STAGGER)
NGH!
MR. TANSU !!
GO
ZU (SLIDE)


AAAAAH!?
MR. TANSU!?
I'LL CATCH YOU!
JUMP!!
ZUUN (THOOM)
KHI
PYON (HOP)
DOSA (WHUMP)
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE...
BA (BAM)
ARE YOU OKAY, MR. TANSU?
MOSTLY...
YOU SHOULD GET BACK UP TOP.
IF WE GET ANOTHER TREMOR LIKE THAT, IT'LL BE—
...WHEW...


THE FOREST!?
WHAT THE HECK!?
WHERE DID IT COME FROM!?
IT JUST ROSE UP FROM BELOW.
AH!
BIKU (FLINCH)
A BASILISK!!
LOOK OUT FOR ITS POISON TALONS!
WE'VE GOT MAN-EATING PLANTS OVER HERE!
SHURURU (SLITHER)
A BASILISK, MAN-EATING PLANTS...
...AND THE BIG TREES FROM THE SECOND FLOOR? WHY—
KYORO (GLANCE)


NAMARI?
...SHURO?
A HORDE OF ORCS!!
YOUNG MASTER !!
WHAT ARE HUMANS DOING ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE!?
WHEN DID THEY CLIMB THIS HIGH...!!?



Chapter 77: The End

78. Dungeon -2-





GO (THOK)
PIKU (TWITCH)
PIKU
THIS IS GOING NO-WHERE!
THEY JUST KEEP COMING!
THE MONSTERS ARE BEING ATTRACTED BY ALL THESE PEOPLE.
BUT IF WE RETREAT, THE MONSTERS WILL GET OUT OF THE—
!!
NAMARI!! BEHIND YOU!!


HYUN
(SWOOSH)
DOSHAAA
(FWUMP)
NOW!!
THE ORCS ARE HELPING US...!?
NAMARI.
HEY, SHURO! YOU'RE OKAY, HUH?
NEVER MIND THAT, LAIOS IS...
OH YEAH! THAT! ABOUT THAT!!


LAIOS'S PARTY DEFEATED THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN—
YEAH, AND NOW HE'S THE DUNGEON'S LORD!?
WHAT?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT !?
HECK IF I KNOW...
I SEE.
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS.
I'VE HEARD OF THIS LAIOS AND HIS GROUP OF TROUBLE-MAKERS.
OUR COMPANIONS ENCOUNTERED THEM RIGHT BEFORE WE LOST CONTACT.
THEY MUST HAVE TRIED TO STOP HIM FROM BECOMING THE NEW LORD AND WERE DEFEATED.
ZA (FWIP)


ALL UNITS!
FIND LAIOS, THE NEW LORD OF THE DUNGEON, AND SLAY HIM!
HISO (PSST)
THE DUNGEON LORD?
A NEW ONE ..?
HISO
WH-WHOA, HANG ON.
THERE HAS TO BE A MISTAKE.
LAIOS ISN'T THAT KIND OF GUY.
I HEAR HE HAS AN INTENSE LOVE FOR MONSTERS...
...AND NO INTEREST IN HUMAN SOCIETY.
URK
IF THE REPORTS ON HIM ARE ACCURATE, WE'LL HAVE TROUBLE.
HE'LL BE FAR WORSE THAN THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN, WHO CARED ABOUT NOTHING BUT PRESERVING A KINGDOM.
WE HAVE TO STOP HIM.
BUT WHY, EXACTLY!?


THE DUNGEON IS EXPANDING.
THE MONSTERS ARE MAKING FOR THE SURFACE.
IT'S DANGEROUS TO LET THIS GO ON.
ASSEMBLE THE BARRIER CASTERS!
YES'M.
THE DUNGEON IS EX-PANDING?
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
ざわ
ZAWA (MRMR)
IS IT GROWING LIKE WHEN THE DUNGEON SWALLOWED THE GRAVE-YARD?
SO THE TOWN'S GONNA ...
WHOA, WHOA. CALM DOWN.
SURE, THERE ARE MONSTERS IN HERE, BUT WE CAN ALSO MAKE MONEY AND REVIVE IF WE DIE.
THE DUNGEON'S EXPANDING? SO WHAT?
HEY, YEAH.
WE'LL BE ABLE TO PEEL GOLD AGAIN!
WHOEVER DOESN'T LIKE IT CAN LEAVE.
THIS IS WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE IMMATURE RACES...
E-EXCUSE ME...!



SO THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM A REGULAR DUNGEON SURVEY?
W-WE WEREN'T TOLD THE SITUATION WAS THIS BAD.
B-BUT...
OUR JOB IS TO REPORT ON EXACTLY THIS TYPE OF SITUATION, AND YOU KNOW IT.
GROW UP.
UU...
NH...
UH...
HIC!
HIC!
PL-PLEASE LET ME WRITE A LETTER.
WE HAVEN'T TOLD OUR FAMILIES GOOD-BYE PROPERLY.
IF YOU'VE GOT THAT KIND OF TIME, GET TO WORK!
GASU (THWOK)
ガス
WHERE ARE THOSE BARRIER CASTERS!?
DISPATCH ALL THE FAMILIARS YOU CAN CONTROL!
WHAT THE HECK!?
THINGS ARE THAT BAD?


DO YOU MEAN...
...THIS PLACE MIGHT BECOME ANOTHER UTAYA?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IF YOU KEEP STANDING THERE SNIVELING, ANYWAY.
BIKU (FLINCH)
EEP!
WELL...
...IF IT'S ONLY THAT BAD, WE'LL BE LUCKY.
AFTER ALL, WE MANAGED TO CONTAIN THE ONE IN UTAYA.
BUT THIS TIME...


...AT ANY RATE.
BASA (FWSH)
THE WORST THING ABOUT THIS...
...IS THAT THE DUNGEON'S RULES CHANGE DEPENDING ON ITS LORD.
THE LAYOUT MAY SHIFT DRASTI-CALLY.
RESUR-RECTIONS MAY NO LONGER BE POSSIBLE.
PEOPLE MAY TURN INTO MON-STERS.
SOONER OR LATER, DUNGEON LORDS ALWAYS GO INSANE.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN LAIOS DOES? HE LOVES MON-STERS.
WILL HE MAKE MON-STERS FOR FUN?
OR TURN PEOPLE INTO THEM? CAN YOU SWEAR TO ME THAT HE WON'T?


IT'S FINALLY DONE!
THE ULTRA BRIL-ANT
SUPER-ULTI-MATE
QUIN-TUPLE
HEADED DRAGON!!!
WE COMPLETELY CAN'T!!
LISTEN!
BA (FWP)
RIGHT.
WE'VE ASSEMBLED THE BARRIER CASTERS.


WE'RE ABOUT TO WALL OFF THE DUN-GEON!
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES, GET OUT!
DOYO (MUTTER)
B-BUT THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE IN HERE.
HEY! HELP US!
WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM?
THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE ON THE SURFACE.
WE CAN'T RISK MANY LIVES FOR THE SAKE OF A FEW.
B-BUT...
WHAT ABOUT THE ORCS!?
WE DON'T WANT THEM ON THE SURFACE WITH US!
MY ENTIRE FORTUNE IS DOWN HERE!
SILENCE!!
THE LORD OF THE ISLAND ALREADY RECOMMENDED SEALING IT OFF!
WHY ARE SO MANY OF YOU STILL HERE!?
BECAUSE YOU ELVES HAVEN'T LEFT!
AND ANYWAY, THIS ISLAND IS OURS.
YOU ELVES ACT LIKE YOU OWN THE PLACE—
CHI (SNIK)


ARE YOU DONE?
DO (THOK)
DO
DO
YES...
THE DUNGEON HAS GREATER VISIBILITY IN ITS NEW FORM. THIS IS OUR CHANCE.
USE YOUR FAMILIARS TO FIND LAIOS.
ON IT
... HUH?
I FOUND HIM!
THEY'RE SPLASHING AROUND IN THAT LAKE OVER THERE!
THAT WAS FAST!?
ACTUALLY, UM...


...THEY SEEM TO BE DROWNING.
I SUSPECT THEY'LL DIE IF WE JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE.
NO. MAKE SURE.
YES'M.
HEY... WHAT SHOULD WE DO, SHURO?
HM...
WAIT!!


WE WON'T TOLERATE ANY MORE OF THIS HIGH-HANDEDNESS.
WHAT?
WE'RE TELLING YOU NOT TO INTERFERE WITH LAIOS'S PARTY.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
HOW DO YOU STAND TO BENEFIT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER?
WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE OUR VEGETABLE SUPPLY.
VEGETABLES...?
THEY'RE THE ONLY REASONABLE HUMANS AROUND.
IF LAIOS'S PARTY DIES, WE GAIN NOTHING FROM THAT.
EITHER THE DUNGEON GETS A NEW LORD...
...OR THE ELVES OCCUPY IT.


IN THAT CASE, WE'LL SUPPORT LAIOS!
HUH?
WHA?
U-UM...!
GRR...!
HOO!
HOO!


A BASILISK ATTACKED US. I ALMOST DIED.
THEY WERE PASSING BY JUST THEN, AND THEY SAVED US.
WE KNOW LAIOS AND HIS PARTY AS WELL!
THEY DIDN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING. THEY JUST TOOK SOME MEDICINAL HERBS...
...RUBBED THE BASILISK MEAT WITH THEM...
...GENTLY ROASTED IT......
THIS TOOK A STRANGE TURN.
...AND TAUGHT US HOW IMPORTANT OUR DIET IS.
YOU'RE SURE YOU WEREN'T TRICKED?
THEY DO KNOW A LOT ABOUT MONSTERS.
EVEN SO...
...THEY'RE NOT THE SORT OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD HARM THE HUMAN RACES!


GRAND-PA.
WE'RE IN THEIR DEBT AS WELL.
THEY SAVED ME WHEN I WAS ATTACKED BY TENTA-CLES.
...I CAN'T INFLICT LETHAL DAMAGE FROM HERE.
EVEN THOUGH WE WEREN'T VERY FRIENDLY TO THEM...
...THEY BRAVED DANGER ...
... DEFEATED THE TENTACLES AND THE UNDINE...
...CUT THEM UP... BOILED THEM...
...AND MADE THEM INTO STEW.
MAYBE THEY JUST WANTED STEW.
WE WERE ONLY WITH THEM FOR A DAY...
...BUT I AGREE WITH THE OTHERS.
NAMARI. SHURO.
WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF LAIOS?


......WELL, HE'S A GOOD GUY!
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT.
AND HE RESPECTS FOOD.
NOBODY CARES ABOUT THAT!
ALL ELSE ASIDE ...
I JUST CAN'T SEE THEM...
...DOING ANYTHING TO THE ELVES.
IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF CHARACTER, IT'S...
OH!
I HEARD LAIOS KILLED A RED DRAGON AND A BASILISK.
YEAH, BUT IF IT'S NOT A MONSTER, HE'S GOT NOTHIN'.
HUMANS DON'T INTER-EST HIM, SO HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY TACTICS FOR TAKING THEM OUT.
HUH?
ACTU-ALLY, YEAH.
THEY'RE NOT THAT TOUGH.


PLUS, THESE COMPANIONS OF YOURS—
...THEIR LEADER'S THE GUY WHO OWNED THAT BRAWL ON THE FIRST FLOOR THE OTHER DAY, RIGHT?
THERE'S JUST NO WAY LAIOS COULD BEAT THAT.
I MEAN, THE OTHER SIDE'S BOSS IS STILL STUCK IN THE WALL.
YOU SAY LAIOS'S PARTY ATTACKED YOUR COMPANIONS...
...BUT SINCE EVEN THAT MAY NOT BE TRUE...
...IT'S HARD TO ACCEPT WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT THE DUNGEON.
IN OTHER WORDS ...
INUTADE!
YEP-YEP!
BYUN (WHIZZZ)
BASHI (SNATCH)


WE'RE NOT GONNA DO WHAT YOU TELL US!

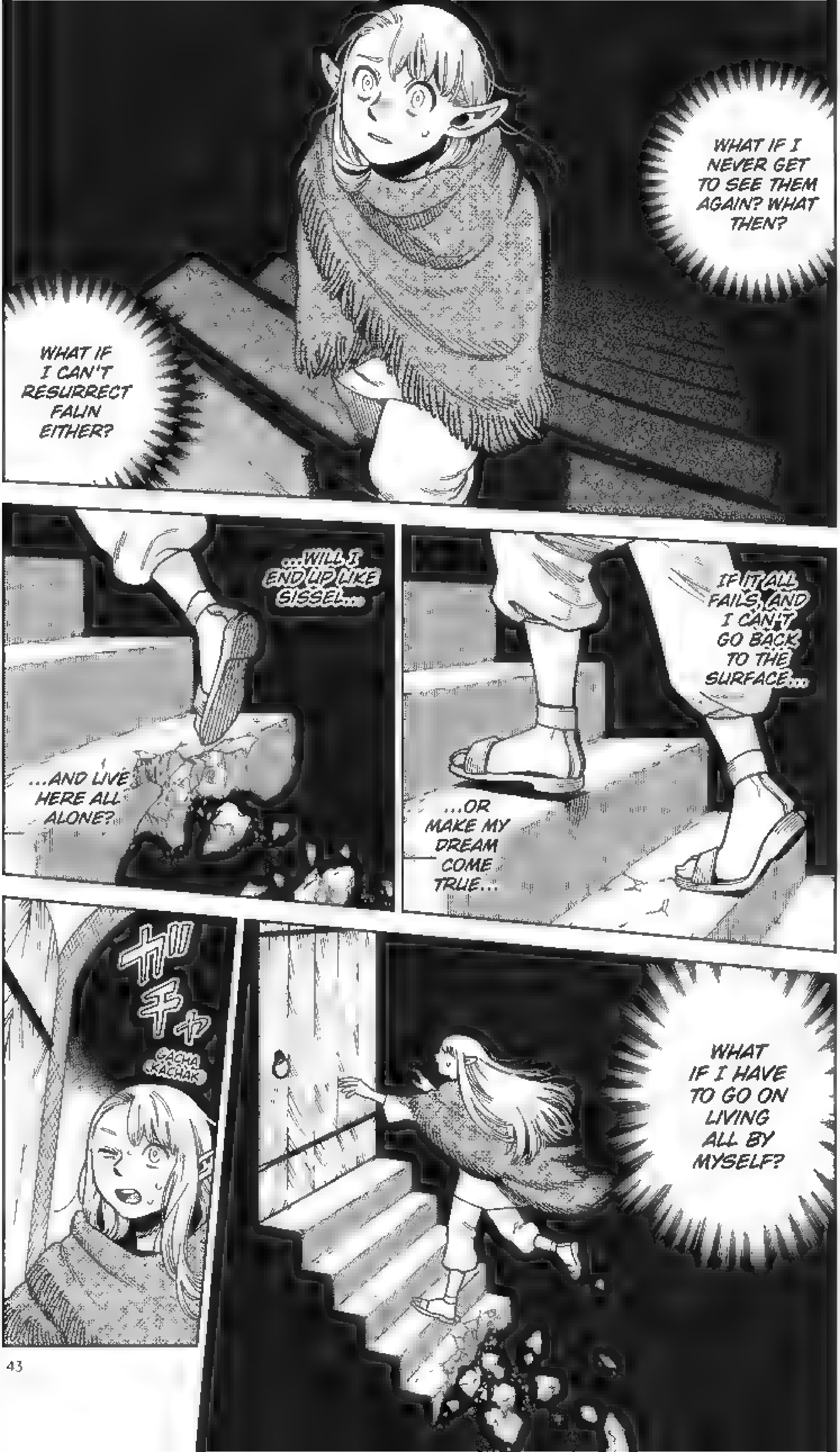

THE SHORT-LIVED RACES ARE ALWAYS SO—!!
TCH!
FINE. BRING IT.
KOKURI (NOD)
KOKURI
I'LL TAKE YOU ON.
HUH!?
BA (BOLT)



Chapter 78: The End


FALIN...
Chapter 79
IT'S COLD, ISN'T IT? I'M SORRY.
LAIOS AND THE OTHERS WILL BE HERE SOON!
WE'LL GET YOU BACK TO NORMAL!
JIII (STAAARE)
OH! SORRY, MY BODY HEAT MELTED THE ICE.
SE (SKFF) SE
PETA (PAT) PETA
WHAT KIND OF MONSTERS ARE THOSE? I BET LAIOS WOULD KNOW, BUT...

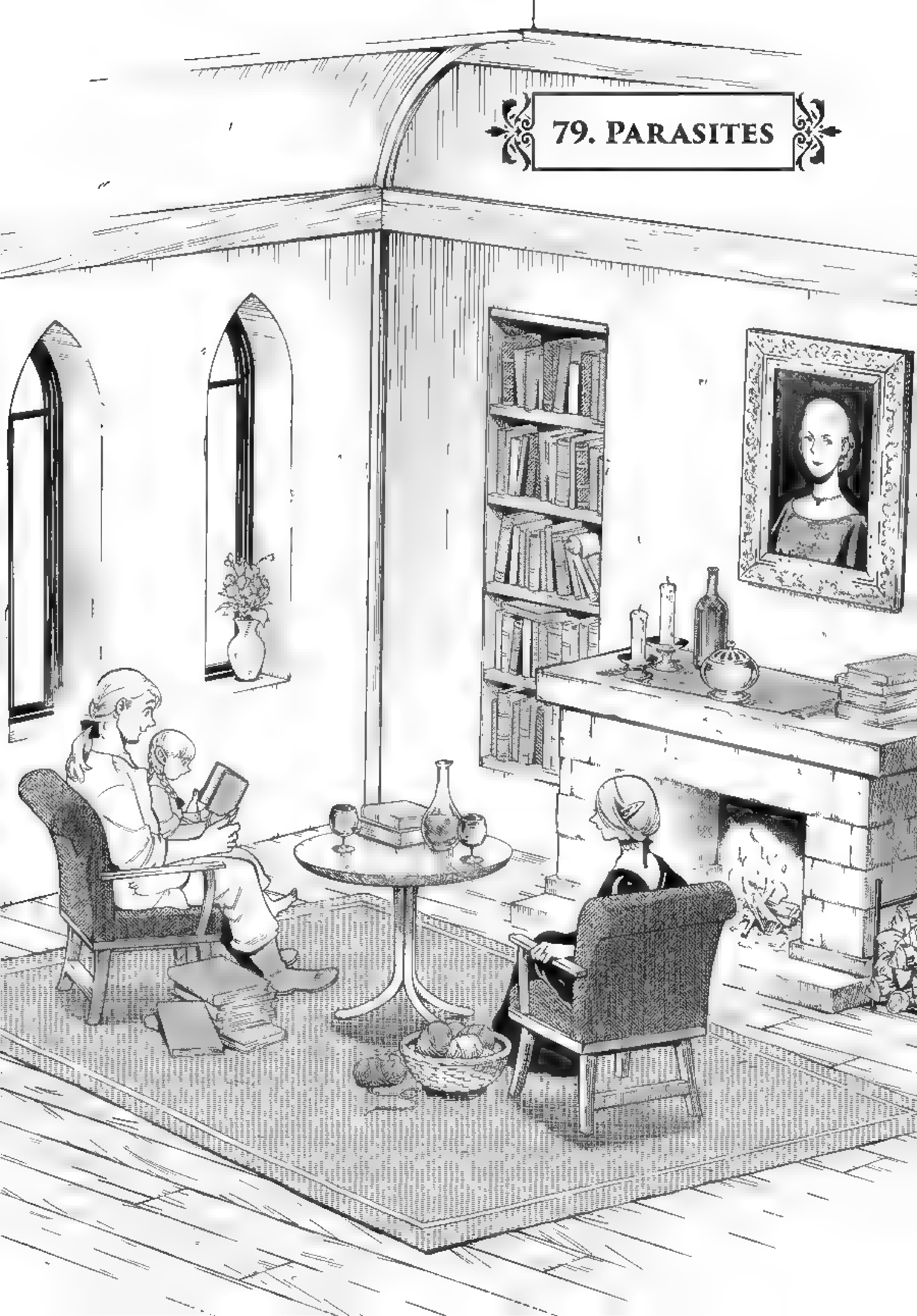

THEY'RE CALLED JACK FROSTS.
YOU WANTED TO KEEP FALIN FROM ROTTING, SO I CALLED THEM.
WOULD YOU HAVE PREFERRED ANOTHER METHOD?
FUWA (DRAPE)
ふわ
YOU'RE GETTING COLD.
WE SHOULD GO BACK UP.
N-NO. THIS IS FINE.
WHAT IF...
WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU LONELY?
ARE LAIOS AND THE OTHERS ...?
THEY HAVEN'T BEEN FOUND YET.


WHAT IF I NEVER GET TO SEE THEM AGAIN? WHAT THEN?
WHAT IF I CAN'T RESURRECT FALIN EITHER?
IF IT ALL FAILS, AND I CAN'T GO BACK TO THE SURFACE...
...OR MAKE MY DREAM COME TRUE...
...WILL I END UP LIKE SISSEL...
...AND LIVE HERE ALL ALONE?
WHAT IF I HAVE TO GO ON LIVING ALL BY MYSELF?
ガチャ
GACHA KACHAK


BIKU (FLINCH)
ビクッ
PA—
PAPA ...!?
DOES IT LOOK LIKE HIM?
I MADE IT AS AN EXPERIMENT.
HE'S A DOLL !?
WH- WHY WOULD YOU...
BECAUSE YOU SEEMED LONELY ON YOUR OWN.
IF YOU'D LIKE, I CAN ANIMATE IT.
HAAH...


BASHIN (SMACK)
I DON'T NEED THAT. JUST LOOK FOR MY COMPANIONS.
HAVEN'T YOU FOUND THEM YET?
I'VE TOLD THE WALKING MUSHROOMS TO REPORT ANYTHING THEY FIND IMMEDIATELY ...
...BUT THERE'S NOTHING YET.
THEY MAY NOT BE UP TO THE TASK.
YOU'VE SHUT OFF THE "EYES," SO YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL, BUT...
...THE DUNGEON'S SKY IS SWARMING WITH CANARY FAMILIARS.
THEY'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR PARTY.
THE CANARIES...
GYU (GRIP)
EVEN IF THE MUSHROOMS FIND YOUR FRIENDS...
...THEY MAY BE KILLED JUST MAKING THEIR WAY HERE.
HUH...?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
ALL I CAN DO IS GRANT YOUR WISHES.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

79. Parasites




BASHAAAA (KERSPLAAASH)
GOPO (GLUB)
ZABAA (SPLOOSH)
GOOD GRIEF.
WE'RE LUCKY THE LAKE WAS—
GASHI
HUH?
HUH?
GASHI (GRAB)


BASHA (SPLASH)
WAAAH!!
BASHA
TH-THIS IS BAD!
I CAN'T MOVE!!
WE'RE GOING TO DROWN!!
HEY!
CAN'T YOU USE WATER-WALK!?
HAH!
WATER-WALK!!
MAR-CILLE DID TEACH ME THAT!!
SO IF YOU APPLY IT LIKE THIS, IT TURNS INTO WATER WALK
HMM...
FRANKLY, THE MEMORY'S HAZY, BUT...!?
VISUALIZE A MEM-BRANE OF MANA AROUND OUR BODIES...



BURYUN (BOYOING)
ぶりゅ〜ん
BORU (BOING)
ぼるっ
BORUN
ぼるん
BORUN
ぼるん〜


BON (BOMF)
BO
TSUUU (GLIDE)
GAN (WHUNK)
IT WOUND UP JUST LIKE THE TIME WE BEAT THE KRAKEN.
...OKAY.
LET'S GO FIND MARCILLE.
HOLD IT!
THINK FIRST.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
ARE WE SCOURING THE WHOLE DUNGEON? IT'S HUGE.
BESIDES, WE HAVE NOTHING.
WE LEFT THE POT AND ALL OUR WEAPONS AT THE HOUSE...
WE'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED.


...SHOULD WE GO BACK TO SISSEL'S HOUSE AND GET OUR STUFF?
DON'T BE AN IDIOT!
IS THIS SITUATION WORSE THAN I THOUGHT?
HMM...
JUST GO ALREADY!
KABRU RIGHT THEN
BOKO (POW)
BUT WE PROMISED WE'D GO OUT TO EAT...
HE'S DYING A SLOW, AWFUL DEATH IN OUR PLACE AS WE SPEAK!
YOU'D WASTE KABRU'S SACRI-FICE!?
SOME-THING JUST WENT—
HM...
WHAT IS IT?
SAI (WIP)


SUTTAKA (SCUTTLE)
TA
WALKING MUSH-ROOMS!?
AND THEY'VE GOT OUR STUFF!!
WHAT ODD COLOR-ING...
LOUSY TASTE
THEY SORT OF MATCH THE BEAR-HEADED SPIDERS.
DA (DASH)
...LET'S GO AFTER THEM!
I THINK THEY'VE GOT SOME-THING TO DO WITH MARCILLE!
NOT TO MENTION WE HAVE TO GET OUR STUFF BACK!!

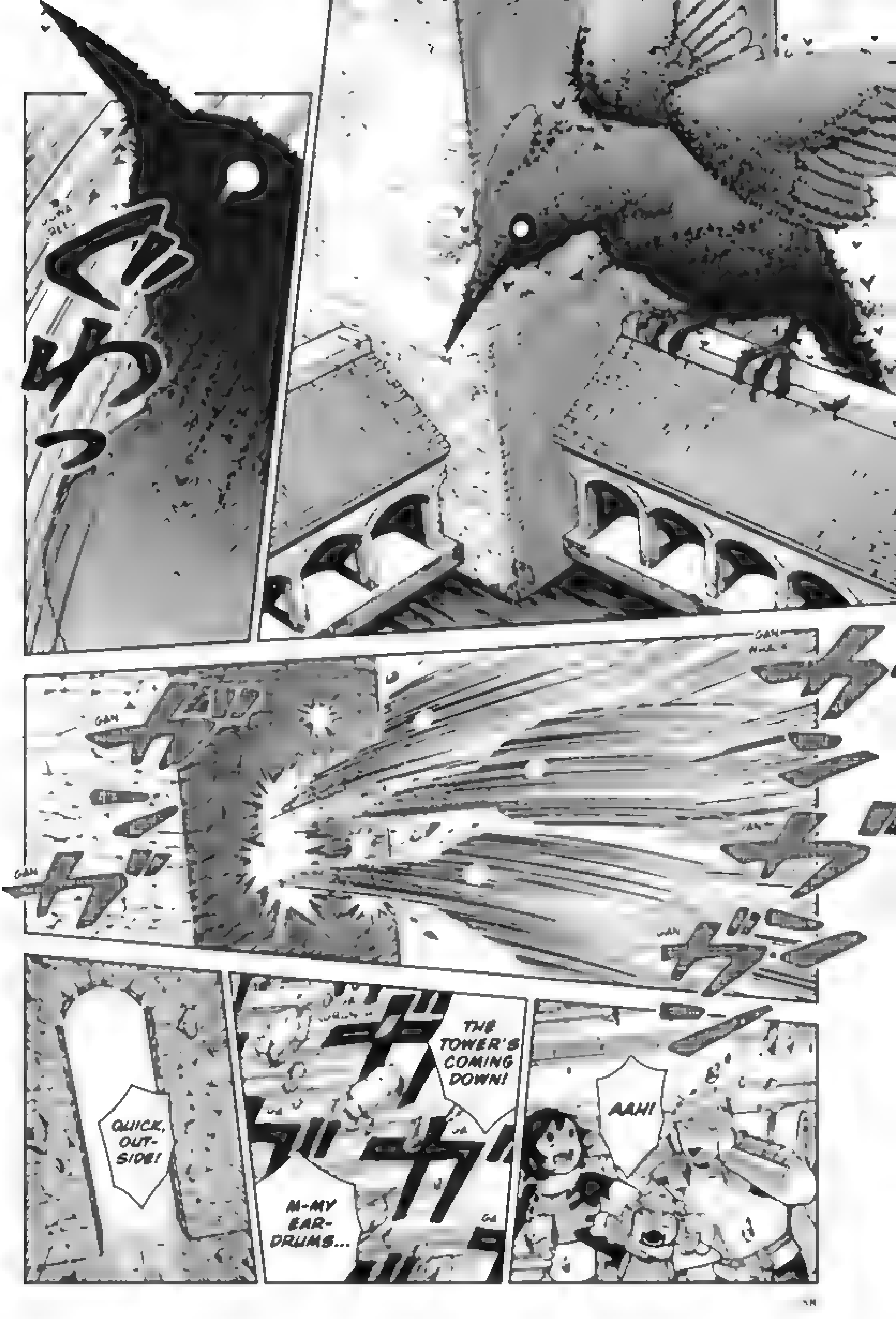

DO
DO
DO
DO
LET'S CLIMB ONTO THE WALKWAY!
THEY'RE FAST!
RUNNING ON WATER IS HARD!
LAIOS, GO!
CATCH THAT MUSH-ROOM!!
RAAAAAH!


GORO (ROLL)
GORO
GORO
GA (GRAB)
GOOD TACKLE!!
HFF!
HFF!
THIS MUSHROOM...
I-IT HAS A FLOWER!?
MAR-CIIILLE!
MARCILLE, MUSH-ROOMS DON'T HAVE FLOWERS!!
THE FLOWER'S LEECHING ITS NUTRI-ENTS. IT'S DRYING UP.
I WONDER WHAT IT TASTES LIKE, THOUGH.
WANT TO USE IT IN A SALAD?


"SOME-WHERE"...?
IF MARCILLE MADE THESE WALKING MUSHROOMS...
...MAYBE SHE WAS HAVING THEM BRING OUR THINGS SOMEWHERE.
OH! WAIT!
SHIIN (SILENT)
BUT THAT ONE'S NOT MOVING ANYMORE.
LET'S WATCH IT FOR A WHILE.
YOU MEAN TO WHERE MARCILLE IS!
...LOOK.
COME GET YOUR STUFF.
HEY, IZU-TSUMI.
WE'RE NOT DOING IT FOR YOU.


ACK!
WHAT ARE THOSE!? MONSTERS!?
THEY DON'T SMELL LIKE MONSTERS...
KUN (SNIFF)
I SMELL MAGIC.
THEY'RE LIKE MARCILLE'S FAMILIARS.
DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE THE CANARIES' ...
IT'S NOT SAFE OUT HERE.
LET'S HIDE INSIDE.


LAIOS'S PARTY HAS NOTICED US.
IF THEY LOSE US SOMEWHERE NARROW, WE MAY HAVE TROUBLE.
DO NOT LET THEM GET AWAY.
YES'M.
ず
ぞ
ぞ
ぞ
ぞ
すぃ
WHEW.
HFF! HFF!
THEY'RE NOT FOLLOWING US IN, HUH?


GAN
GAN
GAN
GAN
AAH!
THE TOWER'S COMING DOWN!
M-MY EAR-DRUMS...
QUICK, OUT-SIDE!


SA (VWIP)
PORO (DROP)
PAKU
PAKU (SNAP)
PAKU
GOKURI (GULP)
WAUGH!
OH... OH NO.
BASA (FLAP)
BOCHAN (SPLASH)


NOT GOOD, NOT GOOD, NOT GOOD! WHAT DO WE DO!?
LOOK AT IT THIS WAY: WE DIDN'T GET CAUGHT. WE SLIPPED THROUGH THEIR GUARD.
REMEMBER WHEN WE BEAT THE KRAKEN?
WHAT'S A KRAKEN?
IT'S A HUGE MONSTER, LIKE A SQUID-OCTOPUS HYBRID.
IT TASTES AWFUL.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SQUID MIXED WITH OCTOPUS ...!?
WHAT DID WE FIND AFTER WE KILLED IT?
WHAT...?
YOU ATE A RAW PARASITE AND TRASHED YOUR STOMACH ...
YES. THAT.
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
THE PARASITE WAS WEAKER THAN THE KRAKEN ...
...BUT IT WASN'T A CAPTIVE.
IT WAS USING THE KRAKEN.


I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
I WANT ALL OF YOU TO DO WHAT I TELL YOU.
HISO (WHISPER)
WE DID IT, VICE-CAPTAIN!
WE CAPTURED LAIOS'S GROUP!
GOOD. BRING THEM HERE.
KEEP YOUR GUARD UP.
YES, MA'AM...
......?
WHAT'S WRONG?


GRAAAAH!!!
BICHI (WAGGLE)
BICHI
GURI (GRIND) GURI
HOW'S IT FEEL TO HAVE A HEAD PUNCTURE YOUR STOMACH WALL!? HURTS, HUH!?
THEY SHOULD BE GETTING INTENSE CRAMPS AND NAUSEA.
THIS IS OUR CHANCE! TAKE YOUR PLACES!
GURI-GURI
SENSHI, MAKE NOISE IN ITS HEAD AND STEER IT TOWARD THE WATER!
CHIL-CHUCK, KEEP A LOOKOUT FROM ITS THROAT!
IZU-TSUMI, SEARCH FOR A WAY OUT DOWN BELOW!
LET'S GO!


PARASITE ATTACK!
YAAAGH!
NOT NOW! TOUGH IT OUT!!
NNGH ...!


BASAA (FLAP)
IT'S NO GOOD! THEY'RE NOT STOPPING!
ZUBO (POP)
THAT'S WEIRD. IT SHOULD HURT QUITE A LOT...
MARCILLE'S FAMILIARS GOT KILLED, BUT SHE WAS FINE.
YOU'RE SURE THEY FEEL PAIN?
ONE OF THE CANARIES TOOK MENTAL DAMAGE...
...SO I THOUGHT MAYBE...
IS IT THE SIZE DIFFERENCE?
THAT DOESN'T EVEN TICKLE
WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?
WHAT ELSE...
CHILCHUCK, HOW DOES IT LOOK OUT THERE!?
UH...


THERE'S A BIG MONSTER IN THE WATER.
A BIG ONE? LIKE A KRAKEN?
NO, LONGER AND THINNER. LIKE A SNAKE.
MAYBE IT'S A SEA SERPENT?
WHAT COLOR IS IT?
IT'S UNDER-WATER SO I CAN'T SEE THAT WELL, BUT—
IF I HAD TO SAY... FLORAL PRINT?
A FLORAL PRINT SNAKE!!
MARCILLE MUST HAVE SUMMONED IT!!
BA (LUNGE)
MAYBE SHE FOUND OUT THROUGH THE MUSH-ROOMS AND CAME LOOKING FOR US.
WE HAVE TO TELL HER WE'RE HERE!!
MAR-CILLE! OVER HERE!
BATA (FLAIL)
BATA
BATA
HELP US!
BATA


うご!!
UGO
うご
UGO
...UU!?
WHAT NOW!?
MY EYES FEEL GROSS !!
ALL OF YOU, LOOK DOWN!
I CAN'T SEE
A BIG MONSTER IS TAILING US IN THE WATER!
THAT'S A SEA SERPENT, ISN'T IT?
BASA
ばさっ
IF WE STAY IN THE AIR, WE'LL BE FINE.
ちゃぽ
CHAPO


DWEH !?
I CAN'T SEE A THING
IT'S NOT A SEA SERPENT!?
A WINGED SNAKE ...
IT'S A COATL!
BUWA (FWOOSH)
EVADE—




AAAAAAH!!
GUBIRI (SKWEEZ)
GUBIRI
WAAAAH!?
GUBIRI
GOKKUN (GULP)
STAY CALM! CUT YOUR MINDS LOOSE!!
DAMMIT. WE LOST THEM...


IS EVERYBODY OKAY!?
I'LL GET A LIGHT...
UGH.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ぽ
PO (GLOW)
ぽっ
PO
ぼおっ…
BOO (FLARE)

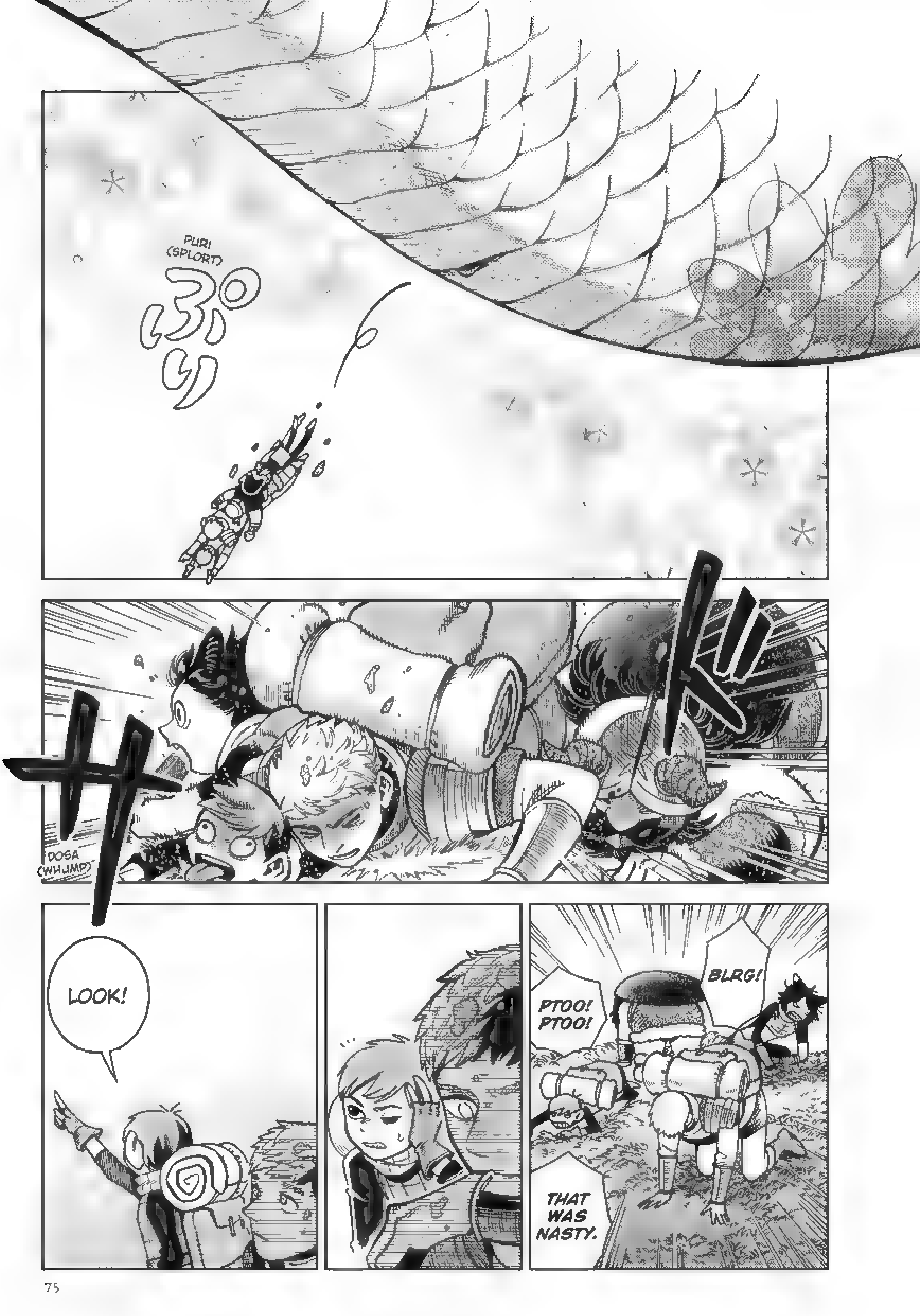

80. The Food Chain



ARE WE INSIDE THAT SNAKE?
IT SWALLOWED THE GIANT BIRD WHOLE.
WHAT, FOR REAL...?
THIS IS...?
LET'S HAVE IT TAKE US TO MARCILLE.
MAYBE IT ONLY LOOKS LIKE A CREATURE...
...AND IT'S ACTUALLY A DEVICE TO TRANSPORT US SAFELY.
IF WE DON'T GET OUT FAST, IT'LL DIGEST US!
A REAL SNAKE WOULDN'T HAVE A CAVITY THIS SIZE INSIDE IT.
MAR-CILLE!!
LET US OUT OF HERE!!
FALSE ALARM, HUH?
WHEW!
MY FEET FEEL KIND OF BURNY...


IF THE BIRD WAS A PARATENIC HOST...
...THE SNAKE IS AN INTER-MEDIARY HOST...
...AND MARCILLE IS THE DEFINITIVE HOST...
YOUR ANALO-GIES ARE WEIRD.
WAIT A MINUTE.
CUT THROUGH THIS SO WE CAN ESCAPE!
LET'S TAKE IT SLOW.
IF THE INTERMEDIARY HOST DIES, WE WON'T MAKE IT TO THE DEFINITIVE HOST.
SO WE SHOULD JUST LET IT DIGEST US A LITTLE!?
WE'LL DIE TOO.
FOR NOW...
...STAYING IN THE STOMACH ISN'T SAFE.
LET'S HEAD FARTHER BACK!


IT'S GETTING NARROWER.
DON'T PUSH LIKE THAT, PLEASE.
I'M NOT PUSHING!
IT'S MOVING ME FORWARD!
IF IT GETS ANY TIGHTER, WE'LL BE STUCK.
LET'S WAIT HERE AND SEE...
BOWEL PERISTALSIS!?
WHY DON'T BOWEL-DWELLING PARASITES GET EXCRETED?
BECAUSE THEY USE SUCKERS OR THEIR MOUTHS TO HOLD ON.
IN OTHER WORDS, SINCE WE DON'T HAVE SUCKERS...
WE'RE JUST GOING TO GET POOPED OUT!!
WA


PURI (SPLORT)
DOSA (WHUMP)
LOOK!
PTOO! PTOO!
BLRG!
THAT WAS NASTY.


I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS PLACE BEFORE.
DID MARCILLE MAKE IT?
IN THAT CASE, SHE'S HERE...
サッ
SA (FWIP)
LAIOS!


SEN-SHI!!
CHIL-CHUCK!
IZU-TSUMI!!
THANK G—
...YOU KINDA SMELL.
WHOSE FAULT IS THAT, HUH!?
I'LL DRAW YOU A HOT BATH. COME WASH UP.
JUST MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME.
SHE'S ACTING LIKE SHE OWNS THE PLACE.


HAAAH...
かぽーん
KAPOOON (KATONK)
AH!!
NOW ISN'T THE TIME!
MAR-CILLE.
BATA
ばた
BATA (TROMP)
ばた
MAR-CILLE!
WHAT, WHAT?
DO YOU HAVE THAT BOOK!?
Y-YES.
THE ELVES ATTACKED YOU OVER IT, RIGHT?
YOU'RE NOT HURT?
I'M FINE.
I WAS HURT, BUT...
FALIN'S BODY IS SAFE TOO.
I SEE. THAT'S GREAT.
IN THAT CASE, I HAVE A PROPOSAL...


!?
WOULD YOU TAKE THE BOOK AND GO NEGOTIATE WITH THEM?
W-WITH THOSE PEOPLE!? WHY!?
THEY ALMOST KILLED US!
I WAS TALKING WITH KABRU.
IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A REASON THEY WANT THAT BOOK.
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS, BUT...
AT ANY RATE, FIGHTING WITH THEM WILL ONLY HURT US.
I WANT TO ASK FOR HELP WITH FALIN.
WE'LL NEED TO HAVE A PROPER TALK WITH THEM...
MAR-CILLE?


I DOUBT THEY'D LISTEN.
EVEN IF THEY DID, I CAN'T DO THAT.
KURU (TURN)
WH- WHY NOT?
I TOLD YOU. I'VE GOT A DREAM.
IT'S THE REASON ...
...I STUDIED ANCIENT MAGIC AND VISITED THE DUNGEON.
AND THAT IS...?
TO GET RID OF EXTREME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE HUMAN RACES' LIFE SPANS.


IT WAS A PIPE DREAM, BUT...
...WITH THE POWER OF THE DUNGEON, IT CAN BE REAL.
I'VE WANTED TO FIX THE RACIAL DIVIDES CREATED BY THOSE DIFFERENCES SINCE I WAS A CHILD.
I MEAN...
ELF 500 YEARS
DWARF 200 YEARS
TALL-MAN 60 YEARS
...AT THIS POINT, THE DIFFERENCES ARE HUGE.
THAT MEANS I CAN'T GIVE THE BOOK TO THEM NOW.
SO, UH...
I ASSUME YOU WON'T MAKE THE LONG-LIVED RACES DIE SOONER.
SO YOU'RE EXTENDING THE SHORT-LIVED RACES' LIFE SPANS?
TO WHAT, FIVE HUNDRED YEARS?
NO. ABOUT A THOUSAND YEARS.
TERE (BLUSH)


A THOUSAND YEARS!!
OH YEAH, RIGHT!
WA HA HA
HA HA
WHAT'S THE POINT OF LIVING THAT LONG?
HA!
THAT'S A BIT MUCH.
WE'D BE THE SAME AGE AS YAAD'S PEOPLE...?
WA HA!
HA!
I HAVE TO LIVE THAT LONG!
HA...
HALF-ELVES' LIFE SPANS ARE CLOSE TO ONE THOUSAND YEARS.
BETWEEN ILLNESS AND ACCIDENTS, NOT MANY ACTUALLY MAKE IT TO OLD AGE, BUT...


OUR CURRENT LIFE SPANS ARE WHAT'S REALLY UNNATURAL.
SO IT'S ATAVISTIC?
IN ANTIQUITY, THE LONG-LIVED RACES ALL LIVED TO THAT AGE.
SINCE THE ANCIENT WAR, THEIR LIFE SPANS KEEP GETTING SHORTER, BUT WHEN THEIR BLOOD IS MIXED WITH OTHERS, IT REVERTS.
TH—
THAT LONG? JUST HALF-ELVES? WHY?
BUT WHETHER IT'S ONE OR FIVE CENTURIES FROM NOW...
...I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE REST OF YOU AND TALK AND HAVE DINNER!
AT THIS RATE, IN FIVE HUNDRED YEARS, THE REST OF YOU WILL BE GONE.
EVEN AFTER ALL THIS, FALIN WILL ONLY HAVE A FEW MORE DECADES...
THIS JOURNEY GOT ME THINKING.
IT WILL WORK.
I MEAN, I GET IT...
...BUT IT'S NOT GONNA—


パクン
PAKUN (POP)
ずっ
ZU (SHK)
ずず
ZUZU SHLRR
ぞぞぞぞ
ZO ZO ZO
ひょいっ
HYOI (THWIP)


PROVIDED SHE WANTS IT TO, THAT IS.
W-WINGED LION...?
DID IT GET BIGGER?
HOLD ONTO YOUR DESIRES.
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THOSE, I'LL GIVE YOU POWER.
A WORLD WITH NO RACIAL DIVIDE?
A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER?
STAY HUNGRY ...
...SO YOU CAN CREATE A BETTER WORLD.
HOW-EVER—
SISSEL'S DUNGEON STALLED BECAUSE HE WAS SATISFIED.
HE STOPPED WANTING AND GROWING.


I CAN ONLY AFFECT THE DUNGEON'S INTERIOR.
OUTSIDE IT, MY INFLUENCE VANISHES.
SO THAT'S WHY SISSEL PULLED THE WHOLE GOLDEN COUNTRY IN HERE...
YES, EXACT-LY!
IF I'M GOING TO EXTEND THE LIFE SPANS OF ALL MANKIND, THEY HAVE TO BE IN THE DUNGEON.
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSI-BLE, YOU KNOW?
SO INSTEAD ...
...I'LL HAVE THE DUNGEON ENVELOP THE WORLD!
YOU'LL EXPAND IT...?
THAT'S WHERE WE NEED YOUR HELP, LAIOS.
MARCILLE IS BRIL-LIANT...
...BUT SHE HAS ALMOST NO INTEREST IN THE DUNGEON.
YOU'VE SEEN HER MON-STERS, RIGHT?
...YES.


THE CANARIES ARE THE MOST LIKELY CANDIDATES AT PRESENT.
THEY'VE KILLED DUNGEON LORDS AROUND THE WORLD AND TAKEN ME AWAY.
AT THIS RATE, SHE WON'T ACHIEVE HER DREAM BEFORE THE DUNGEON IS CONQUERED.
MARCILLE WILL BE KILLED, AND I'LL FALL INTO ANOTHER'S HANDS.
HM? "AROUND THE WORLD"?
ARE YOU THE POWER IN OTHER DUNGEONS TOO?
WE'RE DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS, BUT WE SHARE OUR MEMORIES.
WE'RE MUCH LIKE STRANDS OF HAIR. AT OUR ROOTS...
...WE'RE PART OF THE SAME THING.
WELL.
THE CANARIES ARE A FORMIDABLE FOE, BUT...
THEY'RE AFRAID.
THEY DON'T WANT OTHER RACES TO HAVE POWER.
THEY ALWAYS TAKE IT AND HIDE IT.
LAIOS.
I WOULDN'T TRY TALKING TO THE ELVES.


...WITH MARCILLE'S IDEALS...
...YOUR CURIOSITY...
...SENSHI'S INQUISITIVE MIND...
...CHILCHUCK'S EXPERIENCE...
...AND IZUTSUMI'S... WILDNESS...
...WE'LL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THEM.
HM?
BELIEVE IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH.
COME TO THE SURFACE WITH ME.


YOU WILL HELP, WON'T YOU...?
ぎゅ
GYU (SQUEEZE)
IF WE'RE TOGETHER...
...WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH ANYTHING.


I DON'T THINK WE CAN.
I...
MAR-CILLE.
OUR JOURNEY HAS MADE ME RETHINK A LOT OF THINGS AS WELL.


IN ORDER TO SAVE MY SISTER, WE'VE KILLED ALL SORTS OF CREATURES...
...WHETHER THEY ATTACKED US OR NOT.
FOR SOMETHING TO LIVE, SOMETHING ELSE HAS TO DIE.
THAT'S HOW THE WORLD WORKS.
THE WINGED LION MAY BE ABLE TO CHANGE THAT RULE.
IF HE DOES, THOUGH, IT WILL CAUSE SOME-THING TO TEAR.
THAT TEAR IS WHAT BROKE SISSEL.
HE WANTED THE GOLDEN COUNTRY TO LAST FOREVER ...
...BUT YAAD AND HIS PEOPLE DIDN'T.
...SOME PEOPLE... HATE THE FOOD I LOVE.
?
I MAY THINK IT'S DELI-CIOUS ...
...BUT TO SOMEBODY ELSE, IT'S HARDLY EDIBLE.
NO MENU CAN SATISFY EVERYONE.

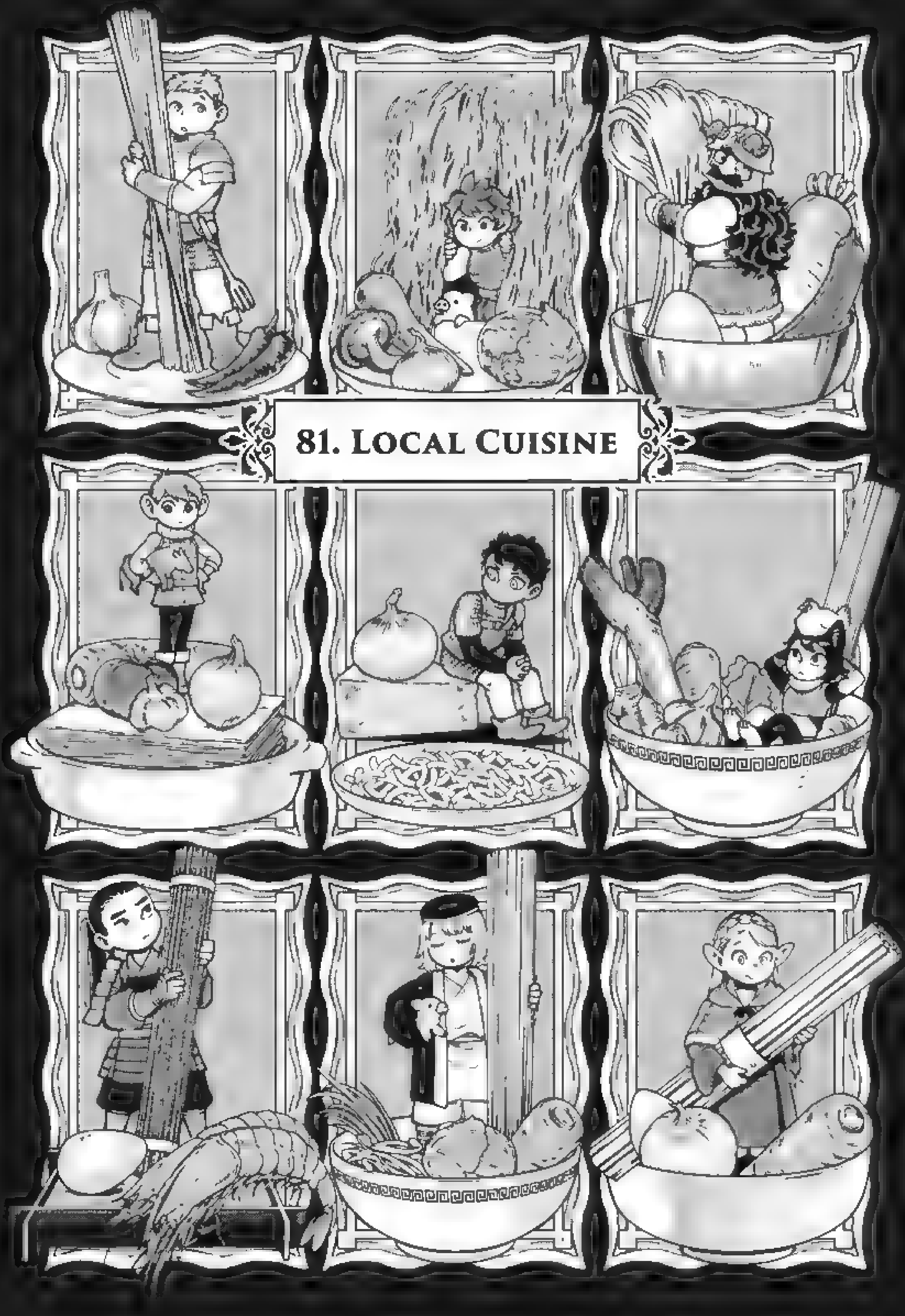

YOUR DREAM...
...MEANS FORCING THE WHOLE WORLD TO EAT A MENU YOU DESIGNED!
I MEAN...
THEY'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT STARVING...
...BUT THAT...
...WAS INCRED-IBLY ROUGH!


I DON'T WANT YOU LOOKING LIKE SISSEL, THOUGH.
I CAN'T CONDONE USING THE DUNGEON'S POWER.
IT'S REAS-SURING WHEN YOU SMILE...
...SO I'D LIKE TO DO ALL I CAN TO HELP YOU.
LET'S TAKE FALIN AND GO BACK TO THE SURFACE, MARCILLE!


WHY...
WHY?
I'M NOT LIKE SISSEL, AM I?
I'M NOT TRYING TO MAKE EVERYONE IMMORTAL.
I JUST WANT TO EXPAND THEIR OPTIONS...
MAR-CILLE.
I— I KNOW.
I WON'T FORCE YOU.
LET ME THINK A BIT.
I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT FALIN AND THE DUNGEON... ON MY OWN.
BUT I WON'T LET YOU GO TO THE CANARIES.
THEY WON'T HELP US RESURRECT FALIN.
YOU'D BE GOING TO YOUR DEATHS.


TAKE CUSTODY OF LAIOS AND THE OTHERS!
BAN (WHAM)
ZUI (SHOVE)
HUH?
HUH!?
ZUI
WHO IS THIS!?
MY FATHER.
ZUI
Y-YOUR FATHER !?
NICE TO MEET YOU...
ZUI
BWA HA HA!
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU!!
BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY HE WAS DEAD?
UU!
GASHI (GRAB)
GASHI
GASHI
WAAAH!


DON'T WORRY!
I'LL PROTECT ALL OF YOU, FALIN...
...AND THE DUNGEON!
UNTIL IT'S SAFE, GO COOK SOMETHING!
WAAAAAH!
...WAIT. IS IT POSSIBLE...
.. THAT THE DUNGEON'S POWER IS EVIL!?
YOU DON'T SAY!


81. Local Cuisine


DAMMIT, DAMMIT, DAMMIT.
JUST ONE DAMN THING AFTER ANOTHER.
LET ME GO BACK TO THE SURFACE ALREADY!
YOU MAY NEVER SEE IT AGAIN.
DON'T SAY THAT!
DON (THUMP)
DON
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT'S NOT TOO LATE YET.
GACHA (RATTLE)
GACHA
LET'S BREAK THIS DOWN.
SENSHI, GIVE ME A HAND!
ONE!
TWO...
THREE—
GACHA (KACHAK)


GASHI (GRAB)
GASHIRI
POI (TOSS)
BATAN (SLAM)
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT GUY!?
UH...
MARCILLE'S LATE FATHER, APPARENT-LY...


MAYBE IT'S A MIMIC-TYPE MONSTER.
SUC-CUBUS, SHAPE-SHIFTER, OOZE, MIRROR—
TSUN (POKE)
PETA PETA (PAT)
SA SA SA (SSK)
I'M DONATO.
I RECORD AND PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF THIS LAND.
IT TALKS!?
IS IT AN ACTUAL HUMAN...!?
I'M DONATO.
I RECORD AND PRE-SERVE THE HISTORY OF THIS LAND.
...GUESS NOT, HUH.
THAT'S DEFI-NITELY A MON-STER.
LAIOS, CAN YOU TELL WHAT TYPE HE IS?
IT'S JUST A GUESS, BUT...


...NONE OF US KNOW THE PERSON HE'S IMITATING...
...SO HE'S NOT A SHAPESHIFTER OR A SUCCUBUS.
SINCE HIS FORM IS STABLE, HE ISN'T A SLIME.
HE'S SOLID, AND THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A DREAM OR VISION.
IN THAT CASE...HE'S PROBABLY A DOPPELGÄNGER.
WHAT'S A DOPPELGÄNGER?
A MONSTER THAT MIMICS OTHER CREATURES.
THEY'RE BEST KNOWN FOR THEIR HABIT OF KILLING THE ORIGINAL AND TAKING THEIR PLACE.
IF WE HAD A MIRROR, I COULD DEAL WITH HIM, BUT...
AS IF WE'D HAVE A MIRROR.
WE'RE IN A KITCHEN.
IT JUST HAS TO REFLECT HIS FACE.
OLD POTS AND KNIVES WON'T DO THE TRICK.
WHAT ABOUT A BOWL OF WATER?
IT MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH...


CAN'T WE GET OUT THIS WINDOW?
GACHA GACHA (RATTLE)
ガチャガチャ
TCH!
IT'S STURDY ...
HM?
ゴォオオオオ
I BET I COULD CLIMB DOWN THE TRUNK...
...BUT THOSE KLUTZES WOULD NEVER MANAGE IT.
AND ACTU-ALLY...
HEY.
COME LOOK OUT-SIDE.
WHAT? WHAT'S UP?


WHOA!
SKWEE!
SKWEE!
KAW!
KAW!
IT'S CRAWLING WITH MON-STERS!
MARCILLE'S GEARING UP TO FIGHT THE CANARIES...
OKAY, THIS IS OFFICIALLY BAD.
WE HAVE TO STOP HER!
......


H-HE'S TOUGH!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
WE'RE NO MATCH.
INSTEAD OF TRYING TO GET OUT...
HMM
...WHY DON'T WE DRAW MARCILLE TO US?
DRAW HER...?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE LAST ATE.
SHE SHOULD BE GETTING HUNGRY.
LUCKILY THIS IS A KITCHEN, AND IT'S WELL-STOCKED WITH INGREDI-ENTS!
LET'S USE THE AROMA TO ATTRACT HER!
MAKES SENSE.
YOU'RE SO SMART!
WHAT DO YOU PEOPLE THINK MARCILLE IS, HUH?


WHAT ARE HER FAVORITES?
A MEAL MARCILLE WOULD COME RUNNING FOR...
I DON'T EXPECT ORDINARY FOOD TO ATTRACT HER, OF COURSE.
WE'LL NEED A PARTIC-ULARLY APPEALING DISH.
LIKE CATNIP FOR CATS.
KELPIE LIVER!
FISH-MAN EGG PORRIDGE.
BOILED MAN-DRAKE!
YOU'RE SURE THAT'S WHAT SHE LIKES?
WHAT COULD WE MAKE THAT WOULD DRAW MARCILLE TO US...
THESE ARE ALL NORMAL FOODS.
......
...HMM.
IT'S NEW, BUT IT FEELS LIVED-IN.
IT MUST BE BASED ON SOME-THING.
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
I MEAN THIS SPACE THAT MARCILLE MADE.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...WHAT IS THIS PLACE?


I THINK THIS MAY BE THE HOUSE WHERE SHE GREW UP.
ON THE INSIDE, YEAH, IT FEELS LIKE THAT.
TO HER, IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PLACE THERE IS.
IF WE MAKE A DISH THAT'S A PERFECT FIT...
...DON'T YOU THINK SHE'LL GET CURIOUS AND COME LOOK!?
?
WE'LL CALL IT "OPERATION: HOMETOWN CUISINE"!!
DON (BAM)
"HOME-TOWN CUISINE," HUH?
SO WHERE'S MARCILLE FROM?
ACTU-ALLY, GOOD QUES-TION.
DIDN'T SHE SAY IT WASN'T THE WEST?
......
YOU GUYS SERIOUSLY DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER.
WE ALMOST NEVER SPENT TIME TOGETHER OUTSIDE WORK...
BEFORE, ANYWAY
SEE YAAA.


GUESS YOU SHOULD HAVE HUNG OUT MORE AND PICKED UP ON HER INNER DARKNESS.
HMM.
I DON'T THINK SHE'S REALLY ACTING LIKE HERSELF...
MARCILLE GREW UP LONELY BECAUSE OF ME.
BIKU (FLINCH)
WAUGH!?
IT JUST STARTS TALKING.
CHILDREN WITH BLOOD FROM SHORT-LIVED AND LONG-LIVED PARENTS DEVELOP AT DIFFERENT RATES.
SOME ARE STILL PHYSICALLY CHILDREN AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS.
OTHERS GROW LIKE THE SHORT-LIVED RACES, THEN STOP SUDDENLY IN MIDDLE AGE.
SAME AGE
AS A CHILD, HER GROWTH WAS ERRATIC...
IT TOOK TWENTY YEARS FOR ALL HER ADULT TEETH TO GROW IN.
I REMEMBER GOING TO BURY THEM TOGETHER, NEAR A CARROT FIELD...
HM?


WASN'T IT CREEPY WHEN THE TEETH GOT PLOWED UP?
HMM.
THOUGH WE USED ONION FIELDS.
MAYBE IT'S A NORTHERN CONTINENT CUSTOM?
BURY TEETH IN A FIELD?
NOT THROW THEM DOWN A RABBIT HOLE?
NO, YOU HIDE THEM UNDER YOUR SHOES.
WE THREW OURS IN THE RIVER.
THAT MEANS...
MARCILLE...
JUST ASK HIM.
TOO SLOW.
WHAT FOODS DID MARCILLE LIKE AS A KID?
KEH!
...IF WE KEEP LISTENING, HIS STORIES SHOULD GIVE US CLUES ABOUT HER HOMETOWN!!
...WAS BORN WHEN I WAS GETTING ON IN YEARS.
SHE LEARNED TO SPEAK RIGHT AWAY...
...BUT IT WAS YEARS BEFORE SHE COULD RUN AROUND.
SHE TALKS A LOT.
HE'S SO LIVELY.
HE DOESN'T LISTEN.


THAT MEANT WE COULDN'T SEND HER TO SCHOOL FOR QUITE A WHILE.
FOR A LONG TIME, SHE GREW UP SURROUNDED BY SHORT-LIVED ADULTS, CHICKENS AND BOOKS.
PERI (PEEL)
YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MAKING?
THIS IS JUST FOR THE BROTH.
BROTH IS A FOUNDATION.
VEGETABLES, HERBS, MUSHROOMS, MEAT, SEAFOOD.
YOU CAN USE ALL SORTS OF THINGS...
...BUT THE BROTH IS WHAT SETS THE TONE OF A CERTAIN REGION.
FROM WHAT HE'S SAID...
...VEGETABLES AND CHICKEN WERE STAPLES IN MARCILLE'S HOMETOWN.
YOU CAN USE THOSE IN ANY DISH, SO I'LL JUST PREPARE THEM NOW.
KEEP HIM TALKING.
ALL RIGHT!


ONE YEAR, I WAS SICK.
I COULDN'T EAT MUCH.
MY DAUGHTER WAS WORRIED, AND SHE COOKED FOR ME WITHOUT TELLING HER MOM.
WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE MADE?
WHAT WAS IT!?
OOH!
A BIG POT FULL OF PASTA...
...SPRIN-KLED WITH A LITTLE SALT.
THOUGHT I'D DIE, BUT I ATE IT ALL.
THAT'S A PAINFUL... I MEAN, A BEAUTIFUL MEMORY.
—NO, WAIT. SENSHI! DID YOU HEAR THAT!?
HE SAID PASTA!
IT'S COMING TOGETHER.
I'LL MAKE NOODLES.


THAT SAID, PASTA COMES IN MANY FORMS!
SHORT, LONG, FLAT...
I ALSO WANT TO KNOW ABOUT SEASONINGS AND TOPPINGS.
KEEP TALKING TO HIM.
LEAVE IT TO ME!
WHAT WAS THE MOST POPULAR LOCAL DISH?
SHIIN (SILENCE)
THE QUESTIONS HAVE TO RELATE TO THINGS MARCILLE REMEMBERS.
HE'S MADE FROM MEMORIES.
WHAT WAS YOUR WIFE'S BEST RECIPE?
PIKURI (TWITCH)
I COULDN'T GET ENOUGH OF MY WIFE'S ROAST PORK.
OHO!?
SHE SEASONED IT WITH HERBS, TIED IT WITH TWINE, THEN SLOW-ROASTED IT.
I THOUGHT I COULD SPEND FOREVER EATING THAT.
THAT SOUNDS TASTY.


MY LITTLE SISTER'S IN HERE
I USED TO BE A BIG EATER...
...BUT BETWEEN SICKNESS AND AGE, THE LIST OF WHAT I COULD EAT GOT SHORTER, AND I GREW THIN.
MY WIFE WAS A CHEERFUL SOUL...
...BUT WHEN I WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO EAT THE ROAST PORK I LOVED...
...SHE GOT TERRIBLY UPSET.
IT'LL ALL WORK OUT.
AFTER I DIED, WHEN MY DAUGHTER WAS IN TEARS, MY WIFE SPOKE TO HER.
MARCILLE'S MEMORIES WITH ME ARE MONOPOLIZED BY ILLNESS AND OLD AGE.
THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME I EVER SAW HER SO EMOTIONAL.
I'M SURE IT MADE A DEEP IMPRESSION ON OUR DAUGHTER.


"YOU RUN FASTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE...
"...SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WATCH LOTS OF PEOPLE GO AWAY."
...SHE SAID.
SHE DEVELOPED AN INTEREST IN THE RACES' LIFE SPANS...
...AND BEGAN TO SPEAK OF HER DREAM AROUND THAT TIME.
I SEE...
IN THAT CASE, LET'S ADD ROAST PORK TO THE PASTA.
THAT'S YOUR TAKE-AWAY!?
... LAIOS?


NO, YOU CAN!!
BECAUSE YOU'RE AMAZING, MARCILLE!!
YOU'VE WORKED HARD FOR SUCH A LONG TIME!
DON'T GET DISCOURAGED, BE CONFIDENT!
IF YOU WISH HARD, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING!
DON'T GIVE UP...
WHAT IS IT, LAIOS?
I-I REMEMBERED.
THAT TIME MARCILLE WAS ATTACKED BY NIGHTMARES, I WENT INTO HER DREAM TO SAVE HER.
YEAH, THAT HAPPENED.
I'D FORGOTTEN WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT DREAM, BUT
I'M THE ONE WHO STIRRED HER UP


MARCILLE WAS SCARED HER LOVED ONES WOULD DIE BEFORE SHE DID.
I TOLD HER SHE COULD CONQUER THAT FEAR. I ENCOURAGED HER.
I MADE HER PICK UP THAT BOOK...
THAT UNWAVERING ATTITUDE OF HERS IS MY FAULT.
WHAT THE HECK?
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...
...IT'S HER PARENTS' FAULT FOR MAKING A BABY.
DON'T SAY THAT!
I'M SAYING THINKING LIKE THAT IS POINTLESS.
IT COULD BE OUR FAULT FOR NOT GETTING TO KNOW HER BETTER...
...OR FALIN'S FAULT FOR ACTUALLY BEING GOOD FRIENDS WITH HER.
THAT'S ...
......
THAT SMELL IS SO LOUD I CAN'T FOCUS!
GUUUUU (GURGLE)
COULD IT BE...!?
IT'S DONE.
GU (THWIP)
WOW !!
BE-HOLD!
THIS IS LOCAL CUISINE FROM MARCILLE'S HOME-TOWN—


PER-FECTED!!!
DON (BABAM)
ENERGY
VITAMIN C
PROTEIN
VITAMIN B1
FAT
VITAMIN A
CARBS
IRON
CALCIUM
Local Cuisine from Marcille's Hometown
Ingredients
Noodles 400 g
Soup 400 mL
Braised pork belly 2 slices
Cabbage · bean sprouts To taste
Garlic · leeks · soft-boiled egg To taste
OHH~!!
NO WAY IS THAT RIGHT!!
NOTHING IN THOSE STORIES SUGGESTED THAT PART OF THE WORLD!
I MEAN, IT'S A PASTA DISH, RIGHT?
A PASTA DISH...!?


ISN'T THAT MORE LIKE THIS STUFF!?
PASTA
YOU THINK IT SHOULD BE ON A PLATE AND NOT IN A BOWL?
SARA UDON
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY
DENSE!?
KON (KNOCK)
KON
AH!
GIII (CREEEAK)
JI' (STARE)
MAR-CILLE!!
THERE, SEE!?
NO WAY! MAR-CILLE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THERE, SEE"?
I CAME TO MAKE SURE YOU WEREN'T DOING ANYTHING WEIRD.
YOU MEAN THE SMELL DIDN'T DRAW YOU HERE?
HMF.
......
FUWAAA (WAFT)
GUU (GURGLE)
...WHAT DID YOU MAKE?


ZU (SLURP)
ズッ
ZU
ズッ
がつ
GA (CHOMP)
カプ
KAPU (MUNCH)
ちゅ
CHUUU (SHIP)
チャッ


MUGU (CHEW)
MUGU
MUGU
HOOOO...
ZUZOZO (SHOOOOP)
GOKU (GULP)
MAR-CILLE...
GO FOR IT, LAIOS.
HOW IS IT? GOOD?
GOKUN
...YES. IT'S DELICIOUS.
LISTEN, MAR-CILLE...
DO YOU REMEMBER EATING WITH YAAD'S PEOPLE?
THE DUNGEON MADE THEM IMMORTAL...
...BUT NONE OF THEM LOOKED HAPPY AT ALL.
YAAD?
SAME WITH SISSEL.
THE DUNGEON'S POWER MAY NOT BE A GOOD THING.
IN THAT CASE...
GOKU
GO
GOKU


TONI (THUNK)
ト
ッ!!
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
GATA (CLATTER)
ガタ
I'M SHORT ON TIME, SO I'M GOING.
WAIT!
MARCILLE! WAIT JUST A—
BA (VWIP)
ばっ
HEY, MOVE—
GU (GRIP)
ぐっ


WAAAAUGH!
POOON (TOSS)
GATAN (CLATTER)
WATCH IT!
GACHA (CRASH)
PIN HER DAD DOWN!
GA (GRAB)
GASHI (CLAMP)
AAAAH!
IT'S NO GOOD. WE CAN'T BEAT HIM WITH FORCE.
ARGH! IF WE HAD A MIRROR...
WHAT ELSE COULD WE USE?
WHAT ELSE ...!?
AH!
HUH ...!?


SHE REALLY CLEANED HER BOWL.
WAIT, NOW'S NOT THE TIME!!
RIGHT! THIS'LL WORK!!
WOW, MARCILLE...
AND THERE WAS SO MUCH.
SHE EVEN DRANK ALL THE SOUP.
THAT'S TOO MUCH SALT
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN HUNGRY...
HEY!
WHOOO
OOOA!


BA (FWOOD)
EAT THIS! BOWL ATTACK!
GRRAAAAH
GUH!
GUH!
GUNYA
BOKO (BLUP) BOKO
GUNYA (WARP



JURU
(SHLUK)
JURU
JURU
THEY USE THEIR LONG LEGS AND COLOR-CHANGING BODIES TO MIMIC OTHER CREATURES.
DOPPEL-GÄNGERS.
THEY'RE LAND-DWELLING MOLLUSKS.
A-AN OCTO-PUS!?
THAT'S WHAT HE ACTUALLY WAS!?
UNE (WRIGGLE)
UNE
ONCE THE TRANS-FORMATION IS LIFTED, IT'S JUST A STRONG OCTOPUS.
IF YOU SHOW THEM A MIRROR, THEY TRY TO MIMIC THEIR REFLECTION AND END UP REVERTING.
KOSO (SNEAK)
KOSO


OKAY, LET'S GO AFTER MARCILLE!
IZUTSUMI ISN'T FINISHED EATING.
JUST BRING IT WITH YOU!
MAR-CILLE ...!



Chapter 81: The End

82. Marcille -1-




THE ISLAND?
THAT PLACE HAS BEEN STABLE FOR AGES.
YOU'RE SURE YOUR PEOPLE DIDN'T STIR THINGS UP BY GOING ASHORE?
IT MERELY LOOKED STABLE.
UNDER THE SURFACE, HE WAS ALWAYS PLOTTING TO OUTWIT US.
DAM-MIT.
SO THE DEMON STOLE A MARCH ON US, DID HE?
HOW IS IT OVER THERE, ELDER?

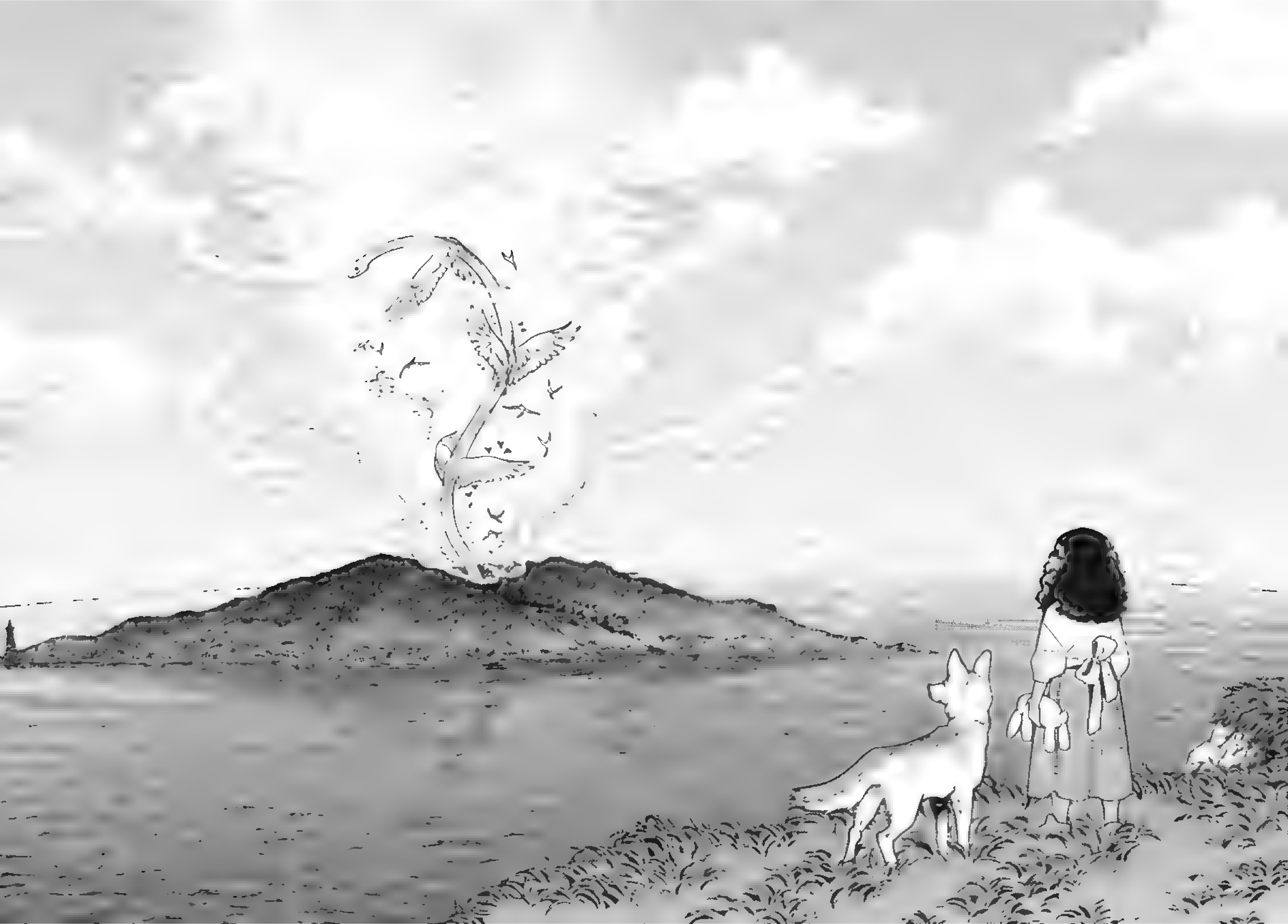

ATMOSPHERIC MANA IS CONTINUING TO INCREASE.
AT THIS RATE, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE ENTIRE WORLD IS A DUNGEON.
I'VE SENT THE LOT FROM KAHKA BRUD OVER, BUT WHO KNOWS HOW THAT WILL GO.
MY SWEET CANARIES SHOULD HOLD OUT FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
NOT FOR LONG, HOWEVER.
IN TWO DAYS... NO.
IN THE NEXT DAY, EVERYTHING WILL CHANGE.
EVERY-THING...
THAT'S QUITE AN OUTFIT.


BISHI (KRIK)
AGH!
MY LORD!
THE RIFT THAT BEGAN IN THE DUNGEON IS GROWING!
IT COULD EASILY SWALLOW THE WHOLE ISLAND.


MY LORD!
PERMISSION TO LAND.
IF WE DON'T RESPOND PROMPTLY, THEY SAY THEY'LL LAND AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVE
THE MERCHANTS WANT TO TIGHTEN SECURITY ON THE SURFACE—
BETWEEN ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES THE PORT IS IN CHAOS WE'VE HAD COLLISIONS
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, MY LORD!?
MY LORD!
MY LOOORD !!
JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WAAANT!


HM?
WH-
WHAT
WAS
THAT
!?






HA HA.
IT WHAT?
THE ISLAND CRACKED, AND SMOKE AND A DRAGON CAME OUT!
HISHI (CLING)
ひしっ
DAAAAD!
YOU SEE LOTS OF ARMED ELVES, TOO... IT SEEMS PRETTY DIRE.
SPEAKING OF THAT, THERE'S BEEN AN ODD INCREASE IN MERCENARIES LATELY.
WHAT IF THE DRAGON EATS ME?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. THERE ARE LOTS AND LOTS OF SOLDIERS IN KAHKA BRUD.
HEY, DAD?
THAT HOLE IN THE ISLAND?
IT LOOKED LIKE A BIG MOUTH.

83. Marcille -2-




THE...
THE SKY SPLIT, AND THE SKY'S SHOWING THROUGH ...
I'M ON THE HUMANS' SIDE.
I LET LAIOS GO BECAUSE I'D HOPED IT WOULD TURN THE TIDE IN OUR FAVOR.
UM. DO YOU THINK YOU COULD UNTIE ME?
AS IF, MORON!
YOU'RE ON THEIR SIDE, RIGHT!?
AW, CRUD
DID I FAIL TO PERSUADE HIM?
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO AVOID A FIGHT NOW.
OH! CAPTAIN!
AND DID IT DO THAT!? HUH!?
I'M TELLING YOU, WE SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM BACK THERE.


HMPH.
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BE UP YET...
HE'S MAD.
Don't screw up this time!!
SHE'S PRETTY MACHO.
Even if it kills you too!!
Find the dungeon lord.
Then stop them!
No, we need him moving.
LOOK.
WE WON'T HAVE TO. IF THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE SURFACE, THEY'RE BOUND TO PASS THROUGH HERE.
THIS DUNGEON IS HUGE, THOUGH. WHERE SHOULD WE START OUR SEARCH...?


HEE HEE.
ズ
ズン
A HORDE OF MON-STERS



We'll get down there as fast as we can.
Whatever you do, don't let the demon out!
Give your all to repay Her Majesty's favor!!
FLA-MELA.
WE'VE FOUND THE LORD.
THEY'RE LEADING MONSTERS TO THE SURFACE.
...SO SHE SAYS.
GEEZ. DOESN'T ASK FOR MUCH, DOES SHE?
I'LL KILL THE DUNGEON LORD.
OTTA, CITHIS, THE MONSTERS ARE YOURS.
FLEKI, GUIDE THEM.
PATTADOL, YOU FOCUS ON PRO-TECTING THE OTHERS.
YES, SIR!
LYCION, YOU CLEAR A PATH FOR ME.
ON IT.
LET'S GO.


THOSE PEOPLE ARE UP AHEAD.
BOKO
ボコ
BOKO
ボコ
BOKO CHOK,
ボゴッ
BOKO
ボコ
IT'S ALL LIES
I DON'T WANNA...
WOULD YOU LIKE A LITTLE COURAGE?
I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING GOOD.
さっ
SA (WSH)


クル
KURU
SPIN
クル
まき まき
MAKI
WRAP
...WHAT'S THIS?
I CAN'T MOVE.
A CHARM TO GIVE YOU CONFIDENCE.
"YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO PROTECT YOUR COMPANIONS FROM THE CANARIES."
"YOU'LL NEVER GIVE UP."


BA
(YANK)
KUI
(TILT)
NOT REALLY.
IT'S A DRESS THAT GRANTS COURAGE.
WELL? YOUR FEAR IS FADING, ISN'T IT?
PACHI
(CLAP)
PACHI
WHA— HUH!?


CHU (SMOOCH)
ちゅっ
TORON (SWOON)
とろん
YOU'RE RIGHT...
I'M NOT SCARED ANYMORE.
I'LL BE WITH YOU.
JUST FOCUS ON YOUR GOAL.
YES... I SHOULD.
DON'T LET THEM HURT WHAT'S PRECIOUS TO YOU.
I HAVE TO PROTECT FALIN AND LAIOS AND THE OTHERS.
IT'S UP TO ME...!


FORWARD!!


EEK
EEK
BON (BOOM)
DON (BLAM)
THEY'VE GOT NO CHANCE.
ZOWA (FIDGET)
...OR SO I'D THINK, BUT...
THEY HAVE THE MON-STERS ON THE DEFEN-SIVE.
THEY'RE TRIPPING EACH OTHER UP.
IF LAIOS HAD SIDED WITH THE MON-STERS—
I'M SURE THINGS WOULD BE WORSE!
THIS GROUP WOULD BE MADE UP OF FAR NASTIER CREATURES!
TO WIPE OUT MANKIND EFFICIENTLY WE NEED THESE!
IN OTHER WORDS, LAIOS ISN'T ON THEIR SIDE!!
I THINK
THEN WHERE IS HE, AND WHAT'S HE DOING?
DID HE FAIL TO PERSUADE HER AND GET CAPTURED OR KILLED?
SU (SST)
EITHER WAY...
KIKO (SAW)
...I MUSTN'T GIVE UP HOPE YET.


バラリ
BARARI
CONTROLLING HER FAMILIAR
UGH
I'LL NEED WATER-WALK...
I HAVEN'T USED IT SINCE I LEARNED IT, BUT...
HM'?
TOSHIRO.
NAMARI
AND ORCS?


ゴキン
GOKIN (KRAKK)
MISHI (CRUNCH) MISHI
ボキ
BOKI (SNAP)
CAP-TAIN!
HYUN (WHOOSH)
PASHI (SNATCH)
TO (TUP)
TO


WINGED LION!



ガリ
ガリ
ガリ
GARI
(SCRAPE)
GARI
GARI
ドポン
DOPON
(SPLOSH)
UN-
DINES
!!
トプ
TOPU
(BLOOP)
トプン
TOPUN
トプ
TOPU


GHK!


GETTING SHOT BY AN UNDINE HURTS, DOESN'T IT?
HAVING MY STOMACH IMPALED HURT TOO, THOUGH...
GU (STRAIN)
JUST LEAVE US ALONE!
I KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH LEFT TO TELEPORT!
HEH.


HUH...?
YOU'RE A MARI-ONETTE.
YOU THINK YOU'RE ACTING ON YOUR OWN, BUT HE'S PULLING YOUR STRINGS.
THE DEMON IS STIRRING UP YOUR DESIRES TO CONTROL YOU.
WHEN ONE DESIRE IS FULFILLED, ANOTHER WILL TORMENT YOU.
TERRIBLE THIRST AND HUNGER...
IGNORE HIM.
YOUR SHORTSIGHTED WISHES ARE FINE FOOD FOR THAT DEMON.
THOSE CRAVINGS WILL NEVER EASE.


BOKO (BLOOP)
BOKOKO
DE-CIDE!
WILL YOU DIE HERE?
OR WILL YOU GIVE THAT POWER TO ME!?
GIVE IT TO YOU?
AND WHAT HAPPENS TO MY COMPANIONS IF I DO?
WILL YOU PEOPLE BRING THEM BACK TO LIFE IN MY PLACE?
I CAN'T GIVE YOU THIS POWER.
I'M USING IT FOR MY DREAM, AND MY FRIENDS!
I SEE...
THEN DIE!!


DA
(DASH)
PA
(ZZT)
PA
PA
PA
FU
HE TELE-PORTED !!


PA (POOF)
DOSU! (SHUNK!)


NO GOOD, HUH?
AAAAH!!


BO (BOOMF)
GURA (REEL)
!!
BASHAA (SPLASH)
CAP-TAIN!!
OH MAN...
MAR-CILLE!?
WHAT THE HECK IS SHE DOING!?


GEEZ.
I THINK THAT MIGHT BE THE END FOR US.
DON (WHUD)


Chapter 85 The End


84. Marcille -3-


-DO (WHUD)
ZURU (SHLICK)
BASHA (SPLASH)
NH...
ZURU (DRAG)
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
I HAVE TO GET THE CAPTAIN'S BODY BEFORE WATER-WALK WEARS OFF.
CITHIS AND OTTA TOO.
BUT FIRST I'D BETTER SAVE PATTADOL—
WHERE'S FLEKI?


AH, I SEE.
WE GOT WIPED OUT.
THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG.
I HOPE THE OTHERS REVIVE US.
THE ODDS AREN'T GREAT, THOUGH.
JIRI (TENSE)
GU (GRIT)
...?


HN!
ばっ!
BA (VWP)
ぐいっ
GUI (YANK)
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA


A NEW TYPE OF WALKING...
...ER, RUNNING MUSHROOM?
SA SA SA (SHWP)
SUTAKORA (SCAMPER)
MARCILLE'S FIGHTING THE ELVES WITH MONSTERS!?
HOW DID THIS EVEN HAPPEN!?
WHAT'S...
POKAN (GAPE)
HM!?
ACK! THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY!
BRACE!
SUTAKATAAA (SCUTTLE)
H-HEY.
TON TON (TAP)


L... LAIOS!?
WHY ARE YOU—
YOU LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT!!
HE WAS BORN THAT WAY.
IT WAS A DISGUISE TO HELP US SLIP PAST MARCILLE.
EWW
THAT'S HOW WE MANAGED TO GET THIS FAR.
KOSO
KOSO (SNEAK)


MAR-CILLE...
WHAT HAPPENED TO HER!?
THE MONSTERS ARE FOLLOWING HER, AND SHE BLEW A GUY'S HEAD OFF!
YEAH ...
MARCILLE BECAME THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON.
NO...
OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY SHE WAS FORCED TO.
FORCED?
WHAT, BY THE ELVES?
IF IT HADN'T BEEN HER, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ME.
THEY WERE JUST A TRIGGER.
HUH?
WE THOUGHT WE'D CHOSEN THE BEST PATH, BUT...
I THINK...
...I GET THE FEELING WE WERE BEING STEERED TOWARD THIS ALL ALONG.
DEFEAT THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN...
...AND BECOME THE NEW KING.
AN IDEAL WORLD...
FREE THE WINGED LION.
NYORO (SLITHR)
AH!


...THE DUN-GEON'S POWER...
...MAY ACTUALLY BE SOMETHING BAD!!
DON (BAM)
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU!!
HUH? YOU SAID THAT?
YES!!
I TOLD YOU IT WAS ALL TO HELP THE DEMON GET TO THE SURFACE!
THIS GUY NEVER LISTENS TO PEOPLE.
COME TO THINK OF IT, MAYBE YOU DID.
...SO?
HOW DO WE SHUT THIS SITUATION DOWN?
HUH?
SHUT IT DOWN?
HOW CAN WE GET MARCILLE AWAY FROM THE WINGED LION...
...STOP THE MONSTERS, AND MAKE THE DUNGEON GO BACK TO NORMAL?
AS...


WHAT!?
THAT'S WHY I TRIED SO HARD TO STOP YOU!
AS IF WE COULD!!
IT'LL CALM DOWN IF YOU KILL THE DUNGEON'S LORD.
FOR A TIME, ANYWAY.
WHEN IT'S GONE THIS FAR, THOUGH, THE DEMON WILL PROTECT THE LORD IN EARNEST.
AT THAT POINT, IT'S BASICALLY PAST SAVING.
KILL MARCILLE ...?
IT'S THE ONLY WAY.
THE ONLY...
UM...
THEN—


HOW CAN WE DEFEAT THE DEMON?
THE DEMON'S NOT A LIVING CREATURE.
LISTEN, FRIEND.
DO YOU THINK THE DEMON'S A TYPE OF MONSTER?
IT'S NOT?
I'LL HEAL THAT
HAAH...



IT'S MAGIC ITSELF DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?
THE MON-STERS YOU ATE.
THIS BUILD-ING
THE GROUND
YOU COULD SAY THEY'RE ALL PART OF THE DEMON
IT'S A SUB-STANCE THAT LEAKS INTO OUR WORLD
FROM A DIMENSION BEYOND, WHERE "INFINITY" EXISTS.
I'M RETRIEVING THE OTHERS' BODIES
IF WATER-WALK WEARS OFF IT'LL BE A PAIN
I'M MAKING A RUN FOR IT, OBVI-OUSLY.
OR I'D LIKE TO, BUT
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU AIM TO BEAT
WELL, GOOD LUCK
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?


I DON'T REALLY GET IT...
...BUT WE'LL KEEP THE MONSTERS BUSY.
BASH (WHAP)
ばしっ
YOU GO AND SNAP MARCILLE OUT OF IT!
I DON'T KNOW HOW.
HUH!?
WE TRIED LOTS OF THINGS...
...BUT SHE JUST REFUSES TO LISTEN.
BAN (SMACK)
ばん!!
THEN TRY HITTING HER!
SLAP HER, KNOCK HER DOWN...
THINK OF SOME-THING!
FIX THIS!!
LET'S GO, MEN!
BA (LEAP)
ばっ
US?


WHAT, YOU'RE STAYING?
I CAN'T WIN AGAINST MONSTERS.
YOU KNOW YOUR LIMITS. GOOD FOR YOU.
......
WHAT IF WE KILLED HER, TIED HER UP, THEN REVIVED HER?
BUT THE DEMON'S PROTECTING HER.
SO WE CAN'T BEAT THE DEMON...
...MEANING WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT MARCILLE?
WHAT DO WE DO, LAIOS?
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!?
GOOD QUESTION.
WHAT ABOUT DRUGGING HER FOOD?
WE FED HER...
...SO SHE WON'T BE HUNGRY FOR A WHILE.


RED DRAGONS!
AND LOTS OF MONSTER REIN-FORCE-MENTS!
WHAT'S THE MATTER
THIS IS GETTING UGLY!
WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO THINK!


I DON'T... KNOW.
IF WE'RE GOING TO STOP MARCILLE, WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE DEMON.
BUT THE DEMON'S NOT ALIVE.
IT HAS NO INSTINCTS OR HAB-ITS...
NO BONES OR FLESH OR BLOOD.
WE CAN'T KILL IT. EATING IT WOULDN'T REDUCE IT.
I CAN'T READ ITS BEHAV-IOR.
I CAN'T PREDICT WHAT IT WILL DO...
...AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE SHOULD DO.
"DEFEAT-ING THE DEMON"...
...IS LIKE "DEFEATING WATER" OR "DEFEATING AIR."
HEH HEH HEH.
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

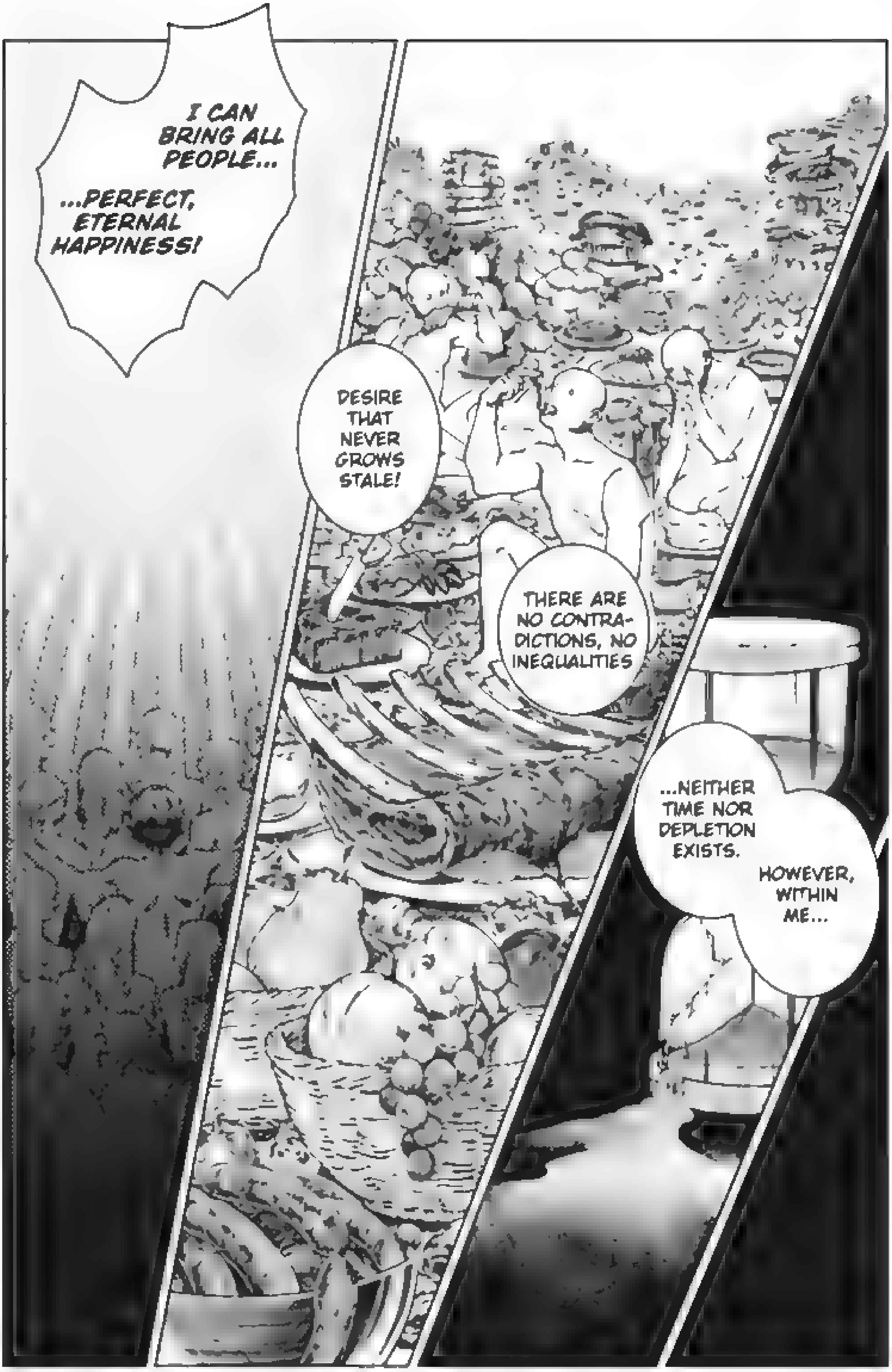

WAH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
ZOWA (SLITHER)
ZUAAAAA (SHLOOOO)
WAUGH!?
I KNEW I LIKED YOU.
WINGED LION!!
SORRY TO LISTEN IN.
MARCILLE ASKED ME TO COME CHECK ON YOU.
THERE IS A WAY TO CALM THE CHAOS, YOU KNOW.


YOU BECOME THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON AS WELL.
THEN SIMPLY WISH—
"I WANT THIS CHAOS TO SUBSIDE."
I DON'T GIVE ORDERS.
THIS SITUATION EXISTS BECAUSE SHE WISHED FOR IT.
MARCILLE ENDED UP LIKE THAT, AND SHE'S MUCH SMARTER THAN ME.
I'D BE A PUPPET BEFORE I COULD BLINK.
BE-SIDES ...
...THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO KNOW.
I DON'T WANT TO DESTROY MANKIND.
IN FACT...
...I WANT TO MAKE ALL HUMANS HAPPY.
YOU'RE LYING.
IT'S THE TRUTH.
EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT—


I LIKE HUMAN DESIRES.
WHEN I FULFILL THEM, IT'S VERY SATISFYING FOR ME.
I'D LIKE TO GRANT THE WISHES OF EVERYONE IN THE WORLD.
BUT THERE ARE TOO MANY RE-STRICTIONS HERE!!
ONCE GRANTED, WISHES DISAPPEAR.
FULFILLING ONE DESIRE...
...CAN DESTROY THE CHANCE OF FULFILLING ANOTHER.
TO THAT END, I WANT TO SWALLOW THE WHOLE WORLD.
THAT WAY, WITH YOU WITHIN ME...
...I'LL BE ABLE TO GRANT ALL OF YOUR WISHES FOR ETERNITY.


I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
I'LL SIMPLIFY IT A BIT MORE, THEN.
I...
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?
......
CHEESE-CAKE!
OH, SO IT'S NOT MONSTERS?
CLINGLEY BREWERY'S STOUT.
HIPPOGRIFF SOUP.
CRAB
IMAGINE THIS, THEN.
THE MOMENT YOU TAKE THAT FIRST BITE.
YOUR BELLY FILLING UP WITH YOUR FAVORITE DISH.


NO MATTER THE FOOD, IT'S GONE THE MOMENT YOU EAT IT.
SO IT IS WITH THE HIGH POINTS IN LIFE.
THE MOMENT YOUR CHILD IS BORN.
THE MOMENT YOUR LOVE IS RETURNED.
WHEN YOUR HEART'S DESIRE IS GRANTED.
NO MATTER THE IMPULSE, IT GRADUALLY DIMINISHES.


I CAN BRING ALL PEOPLE...
...PERFECT, ETERNAL HAPPINESS!
DESIRE THAT NEVER GROWS STALE!
THERE ARE NO CONTRA-DICTIONS, NO INEQUALITIES
...NEITHER TIME NOR DEPLETION EXISTS.
HOWEVER, WITHIN ME...


B-BUT...
NO...!
YAAD?
......
IT'S BLAS-PHEMY.
WHA ...?
WHAT'S THE POINT OF THAT?
I'D BE HAPPY IF YOU WERE THAT SOMEONE.
LAIOS.
SADLY, I CAN'T GRANT MY OWN WISH.
I MUST WAIT FOR SOMEONE SYMPA-THETIC TO WISH IT FOR ME.


YOU WANT TO SAVOR HUMAN DESIRES FOREVER.
THAT'S YOUR ESSENTIAL TRAIT, AND YOUR INSTINCT.
I SEE...
YOU TRY TO APPRECIATE THE INHUMAN.
I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU.
YOU CAN'T SATISFY YOUR APPETITE IN THIS WORLD.
IS IT LIKE A WHALE TRYING TO FILL UP AT A RESTAURANT FOR ANTS...?
I DO SYMPATHIZE WITH THAT A LITTLE.
LEARNING THE HABITS AND THOUGHTS OF WHAT ONE LIKES, TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND THEM...
YOU DO IT AS WELL, DON'T YOU?
YES, BECAUSE HUMANS TAUGHT ME TO COMMUNICATE.
YOU EMPHASIZE THAT YOU'RE SUPERNATURAL, BUT YOU SOUND REALLY HUMAN.


LISTENING TO CON MEN IS A WASTE OF TIME.
I'LL GO HELP THE OTHERS.
AS MUCH AS I CAN, ANYWAY
THIS IS RIDICULOUS...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
EARLIER...
I ALREADY KNOW WHAT HE'LL SAY NEXT.
HE'LL DANGLE A TEMPTING SOLUTION AND PRESS YOU TO CHOOSE...
...WITH YOUR FRIENDS' AND SISTER'S LIVES AS HOSTAGES.
...I WOULD HAVE BEEN AFRAID YOU'D CHOOSE HIM.
NOW I BELIEVE YOU'LL CHOOSE US.


I'M NERVOUS...
KILLING MARCILLE IS REALLY THE ONLY WAY NOW...
...BUT CAN HE DO THAT?
HUH ...?
HE DID KILL HIS SISTER, THOUGH.
GETTING EATEN BY SOMETHING STRONGER IS A NATURAL LAW
THE PROBLEM IS WHAT COMES AFTER...
RAH! RAH! RR!
PEN THEM IN!
GRRRRR...
WAIT! STOP!
YOU AREN'T ENEMIES!
HE'S WITH ONE OF THE SURFACE FACTIONS!
AND THE ORCS AREN'T THE DUNGEON'S PAWNS!
FOR NOW, LET'S JOIN FORCES AND STOP THE MONSTERS!
WAIT, REALLY?


KABRU!!
GUYS!?
HOW DID YOU GET DOWN HERE?
YOU KNOW THE DUNGEON'S CHANGED SHAPE, RIGHT?
THE SURFACE IS VERY CLOSE.
VERY CLOSE!?
THEN MONSTERS WHO ESCAPE WILL GET OUT...!
WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
WE HAVE TO TAKE OUT AS MANY MONSTERS AS POSSIBLE!
HELP US!
A-ALL RIGHT.
DO (SHUNK)
SUPA (SPLIT)
BARI (ZZT)
BARI
BARI
NGH!
BON (POW)
DON (BOOM)
BA (FOOM)
THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM.


ぞろ
(CROWD)
RAAAAAH!
IF WE DON'T KILL THEM HERE, THE WORLD IS DONE FOR!
GO!
A MONSTER HORDE!
THERE'S NO MISTAKE! THE DUNGEON'S LORD IS HERE!
DOOON
ドォーン
パーン
PAN (BANG)
DON
ドン
ドドドドドド
RAAAAAAAH!
WITH THIS MUCH FORCE ON OUR SIDE...
...IT MAY WORK OUT—
WHEW...


WAAH!
SNARF!
MINO-TAURS!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!
THAT AIN'T LIKE FIGHTING WALKING MUSH-ROOMS.
HEY! DON'T GET COLD FEET!
FIGHT!
NOT POSSIBLE!


DO
BRING IT, DAMN YOU!
DO (STOMP)
DO
DON (BOOM)
DO
DO
DO
OH. THIS IS BAD.
MY LEGS WENT WEAK...
DOKUN (BADMP)
THIS IS HOW IT HAPPENED IN UTAYA...
DOKUN


OH
KABRU !!
RUN—


PITA (FREEZE)
FUI (FWIP)
ZUN (STOMP)
...?
!?
ZUZUN
GU (CROUCH)




W-WE CAAAN'T.
THE MONSTERS ARE IN THE WAY...
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
STOP THEM!!
!!?
ZAWA
HE'S THE KING OF MONSTERS.
MONSTER KING LAIOS.
ZAWA (MURMUR)
COMMUNICATING WITH MONSTERS ...?
LOOK AT THAT GROTESQUE ARM.
DAMMIT!
SO THEY REALLY ARE CONTROLLING THEM.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. THE MISUNDERSTANDING WON'T LAST.
THEY'RE TALKING CRAZY OVER THERE.
PO (BLUSH)
HEY! QUIT BEING HAPPY ABOUT THIS.


ZA
(SNFF)
IS MARCILLE INSIDE?
I GUESS THIS IS THE WAY IN...
COME WITH ME, YOU GUYS.
OH. DO WE HAVE TO?


85. Marcille -4-


HELLO? MARCILLE?
WHERE ARE YOU?
BRR! IT'S COLD.
MM.
I CAN'T SEE A THING.
GET US SOME LIGHT.


BOOOO (BLAZE)
WAAAAH!
FALIN!?
SHE'S FROZEN SOLID...
DID MARCILLE DO THIS!?
BUT WHY IN THE WORLD...?
SHE FROZE HER CORPSE TO KEEP IT FRESH.
THIS WAY, WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME COOKING THE DRAGON PARTS LATER.
IN OTHER WORDS...
...SHE HASN'T GIVEN UP ON HAVING EVERYONE HELP US EAT THE DRAGON!
THIS IS A GOOD SIGN!!
MARCILLE HASN'T LOST HERSELF COMPLETELY!
WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK!
YOU SAW ALL THAT...
...AND YOU STILL THINK WE CAN TALK THIS OUT? WOW.
WELL, I DOUBT...
...WE CAN BEAT MARCILLE WITH SHEER VIOLENCE...
NO, I'D WIN.


...WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
AH!
MAR-CILLE!
IF YOU'RE HERE TO STOP ME, THEN LEAVE.
I-I CAN'T...
...DEAL WITH YOU NOW.
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
HOW CAN WE CLIMB UP?
THEY WON'T STOP...


THINGS I WANT. WHAT I WANT TO DO.
IT ALL JUST KEEPS FLOODING IN, AND IT WON'T STOP...
I-IT'S SO LOUD... I CAN'T TAKE IT...
I THINK I'M LOSING MY MIND.
ARE YOU OKAY, MARCILLE?
WE'LL FIX IT SOMEHOW, JUST...
...STAY RIGHT THERE—
AH!
AAAH!!
HM?


WAUGH!
HUH?
IT'S PIE
WH-WHAT IN THE...!?
I WANT SOME GOOD PIE!
LOADED WITH SUGAR AND BUTTER!!


BAKED GOLDEN BROWN...
...WITH A LATTICE-TOP CRUST.
I WANT TO EAT FRUIT TOO.
PEACHES, APPLES...
BOKO (BOP)
JUICY ORANGES...
BOTO (PLOP)
I WANT NEW GEAR.
NEW SHOES.
BOTO
A WARM SLEEPING BAG.
ZUN (THD)
GAN (WHAM)
A PACK THAT'S EASY TO USE.
A BRUSH FOR IZU-TSUMI.
SH-SHE'S GONNA CRUSH US!
TAKE SHELTER ON THE PIE!


THIS IS...
I CAN'T TELL WHAT KIND OF PIE IT IS
YOU AREN'T MY MASTER, THOUGH.
NOTH-ING.
I SIMPLY FULFILL MY MASTER'S WISHES.
WINGED LION, WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER?


UGH!
HUR-RY...
I HAVE TO GET TO THE SUR-FACE...
THE LIFE SPANS...
...OF THE RACES...
TRANS-FORMA-TION...
THE RACIAL DIVIDE...
THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO DO...
GO TO THE SURFACE!
ZO (CROWD)
TO THE SURFACE!
HEY! THE MONSTERS ARE ON THE MOVE AGAIN!
MAKE HER STOP WISH-ING!
HOW !?
DIS-TRACT HER, MAYBE !?
YES, BUT HOW!?
I—


LET'S MAKE ONE!!!
I'LL MAKE YOU ONE!!
I CAN MAKE IT MUCH BETTER THAN THIS!
WHAT KIND DO YOU WANT!?
A SWEET STEWED DRYAD PIE!
OR A MINOTAUR CUSTARD PIE!!
WITH A LATTICE-TOP CRUST, YOU SAID!?


……
……
PITA (FREEZE)
ぴた…
?
HYU (WHOOSH)
BOTOH (PLONK)


I SEE.
IT'S MADE WITH JAM, HMM?
I HAVE JUST THE RECIPE FOR THIS.
THERE'S A TYPE OF MAN-EATING PLANT WHOSE FRUIT RESEMBLES LEMONS.
THEY HAVE A STRIKING CITRUSY, FLORAL FRAGRANCE...
...THAT'S DEEP AND COMPLEX.
THEY'RE QUITE BITTER BUT EXQUISITE WHEN STEWED IN SUGAR!
WE DIDN'T SEE ANY ON THIS TRIP, SADLY...
...BUT SOMEDAY, I'LL MAKE YOU A PIE FROM THAT FRUIT!!
BARA (TUMBLE) BARA
BARA
I SMELL LEMON.
APPARENTLY I MADE HER HUNGRY.


!
THAT'S IT...!
SENSHI!
WHAT ABOUT MEAT PIES!?
WHEN WE GRILLED THE RED DRAGON, YOU SAID IT COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER, REMEMBER!?
WOULDN'T IT BE GOOD IN A PIE!?
...!
A FINE IDEA.
WE'LL MINCE IT, MIX IN ONIONS AND CARROTS, THEN WRAP IT IN CRUST.
IT WILL BE A SPLENDID PIE, BURSTING WITH SAVORY VEGETABLES AND JUICY MEAT.
WE'LL USE THE BIGGEST INGREDIENTS AROUND TOO!
......
ばらん
BARAN (PILE)
ばらん
BARAN



WHAT ELSE!?
PIE WON'T BE ENOUGH ON ITS OWN, RIGHT?
WHAT ABOUT, UH...
...CUTE DISHES!
OR COMFORTABLE CHAIRS.
—TOO.
HM!?
I WANT DAD TO EAT SENSHI'S COOKING TOO!!
WHOOSH
DOSA (FWUMP)
DOSA


GYORORI (GLARE)
OH, UM. HI...
GUNYU (WARP)
AAAH! DOPPEL-GÄNGERS!!
KSSSSSH!
NOT GOOD! DISTRACT HER, HURRY!
JURU (SLITHER)
WITH WHAT!?
UM, UMM...
OH, RIGHT.


DO YOU WANT TO MEET MY FAMILY!?
IF ALL OF THIS WORKS OUT, I'M PLAN-NING...
...TO GET THEM TOGETHER AND T-TALK ABOUT THIS TRIP!
WHEN I DO, I WANT ALL OF YOU TO BE THERE!
HE SOLD HIS OWN FAMILY.
CHILCHUCK'S FAMILY...
BA (TURN)
I WANT TO MEET THEM!!


I DON'T WANT TO REPEAT MY MISTAKES...
...SO HELP ME THINK OF A WAY TO PATCH THINGS UP WITH THEM!!
I WANT TO DO THAT!!
BUT NO MON-STERS!
I DON'T WANT TO PUT MY FAMILY IN DANGER.
SHE WANTS YOU TO GIVE THEM FLOWERS AND JEWELRY.
MY BUDGET'S NOT THAT BIG!
C'MON, IZUTSUMI, YOU SAY SOMETHING TOO.
LIKE WHAT?
JUST WHAT-EVER!


IT LOOKS LIKE I'M STUCK WITH THIS BODY...
...SO I AT LEAST WANT TO GET BACK AT THE JERK WHO DID THIS TO ME.
HYOI (HOP)
OKAY, GIMME A ROW-BOAT!!
HEH...
BESIDES, I'VE PICKED UP A BUDDY.
A BUDDY?
YAAD, THE TALKING DOLL!
THE POOR GUY GOT HIS SOUL BONDED WITH A DOLL!
WE'LL CROSS THE OCEAN TO THRASH THAT BLACK MAGICIAN.
HELP MEEE!
WHEN DID YOU MAKE A FRIEND?
SA (SHP)
FOUND 'IM AT THE LUNATIC WHOSIT'S HOUSE.
WAIT, "YAAD"? ISN'T THAT—
WULULU (WHOOO)


DOSA
(CFWUMP)
DOSA
DOSA
THUD
GI
(CREAK)
...WHERE'S MY BOAT?
MAPS, SEA CHARTS ...
ANCIENT MAGIC HISTORY..
BOOKS ON MORALS AND ETHICS..
HEY! ARE YOU SCREWING WITH ME!?
...THE POWER TO GRANT ANY WISH, HUH?
GACHI
(CLICK)
GACHI
I BET IT WOULD BE FUN TO MAKE A WORLD WITH THAT.
LIKE AN ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BANQUET OF ALL YOUR FAVORITES.
IF I HAD THAT POWER—
GU
(GRIP)


RRR
AAAAAAAH!

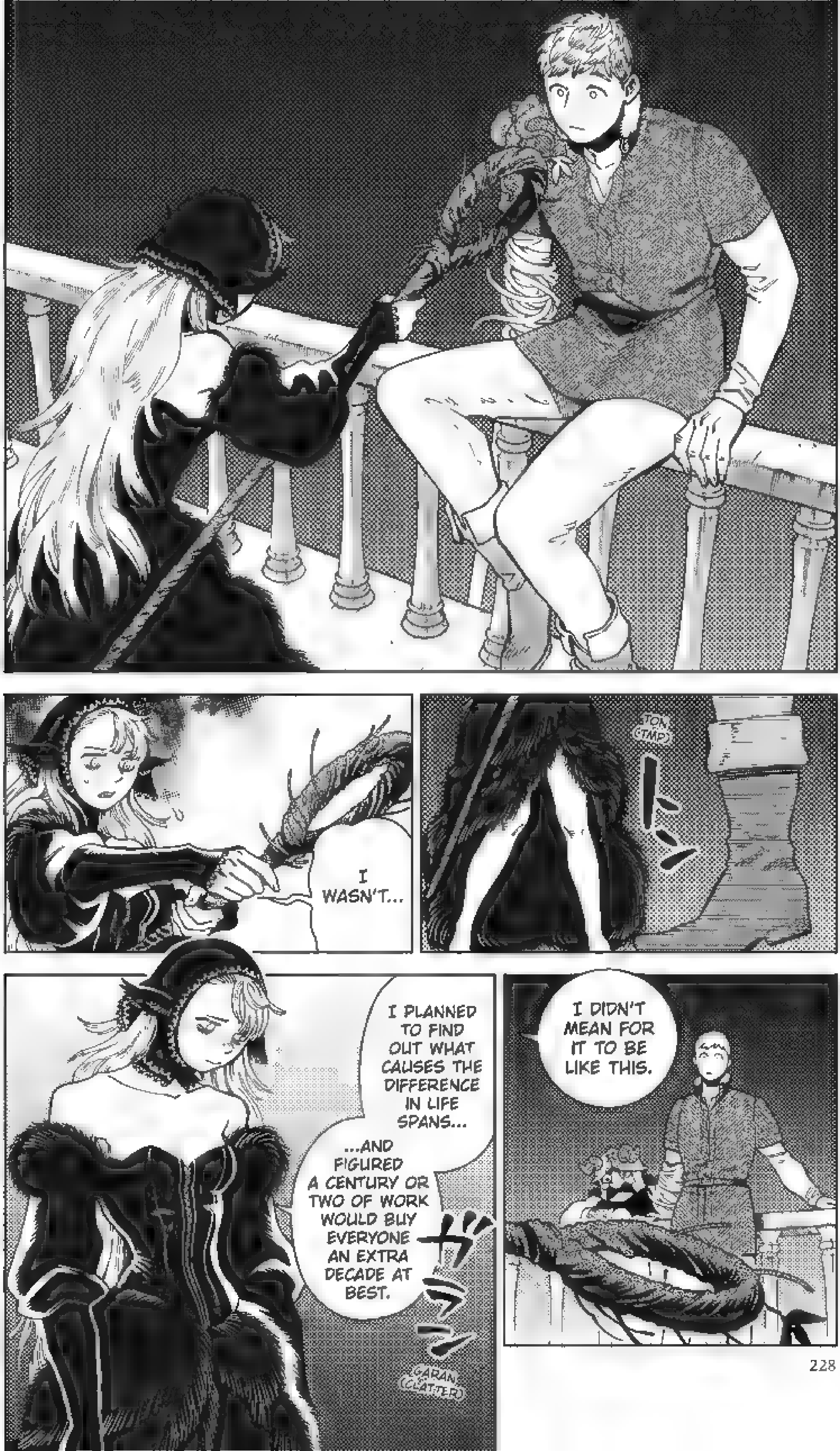

ZURUU (SLIDE)
GO, GO, GO!
GOOD! NOW!
MUNZU (GRAB)
—I WOULDN'T PUT ANY SQUID OR OCTOPUS IN MY WORLD!
THEY DIDN'T TASTE THAT GREAT ...
...AND THEY'VE GIVEN ME NOTHING BUT GRIEF!


YOU WOULDN'T WANT A BANQUET LIKE THAT, WOULD YOU?
...I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT, BUT...
...WITH THIS POWER, I CAN MAKE PEOPLE LIKE WHATEVER I WANT.
AND IS THAT...
...REALLY WHAT YOU WANT?


GISH (CREAK)
DON'T COME UP HERE!!
HYU (SHWOO)
BOKO (BONK)
OW, OW, OW, OW!
BOKO
BOKO


IF IT IS...
...YOU COULD USE THAT POWER RIGHT NOW AND MAKE NEW VERSIONS OF US THAT AGREE WITH YOUR DREAM.
EVEN FALIN!
JUST HAVE THE WINGED LION RESURRECT HER IN HER ORIGINAL SHAPE.
YOU ACTUALLY DO SEE IT, DON'T YOU...
HOW WARPED THAT POWER IS.


I BET AN IDEAL WORLD ..
.. WITH NOTHING UNPLEASANT, INCONVENIENT, OR WORRYING...
...WOULDN'T HAVE ANY HAPPINESS IN IT EITHER!
YOU NEED TO LET THAT POWER GO!
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!!!


TON (TMP)
I WASN'T...
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR IT TO BE LIKE THIS.
I PLANNED TO FIND OUT WHAT CAUSES THE DIFFERENCE IN LIFE SPANS...
...AND FIGURED A CENTURY OR TWO OF WORK WOULD BUY EVERYONE AN EXTRA DECADE AT BEST.
GARAN (CLATTER)


EXCEPT, DURING THIS ADVENTURE, I REALIZED SOMETHING.
AT THAT PACE, AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS, YOU'D ALL BE GONE.
A-AND THEN...
...WHAT I WAS TRYING TO DO WOULD BE POINTLESS.
I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU MY WHOLE LIFE.
IS IT SO WRONG TO PUSH DEATH AWAY FOR A CAUSE LIKE THAT?


WE ATE ALL SORTS OF THINGS EVERY DAY, DIDN'T WE.
DELICIOUS THINGS, DISGUSTING THINGS...
MARCILLE.
THERE WERE HARD TIMES, BUT IT WAS FUN.
WE KILLED AND ATE LOTS OF CREATURES.
SOMETIMES WE ALMOST DIED IN THE PROCESS.
NO.
WE NEED TO ADMIT IT.
STOP.
JUST... DON'T FINISH THAT SENTENCE.
IN THE FIRST PLACE...
...WE SET FORTH ON THIS ADVENTURE BECAUSE—


IF THE RED DRAGON HADN'T EATEN FALIN BACK THEN...
...WE WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD SUCH A GREAT ADVENTURE!
ARE YOU STUPID !?
OW.
BASHI (THWAP)
WHAT ABOUT "EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING"?
THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY TO SAY THAT!
IF THERE'S A FOOD YOU WANT, I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO MAKE IT.
THEN YOU CAN HAVE IT ANYTIME YOU LIKE.
I'M BORED WITH THIS PLACE. LET'S GO.
THERE'S OTHER STUFF I WANT TO DO NOW.
BE-SIDES, WE'VE KNOWN ALL ALONG ...
...HOW TO STRETCH OUR LIFE SPANS WITHOUT THE WINGED LION'S POWER.
......?
...
CHIRA (GLANCE)
IT'S—


A BALANCED DIET!!
R- REGULATING OUR DAILY RHYTHMS!!
AND MODERATE EXERCISE!!
IF WE WATCH THESE THREE POINTS...
...WE'LL NATURALLY WORK OUR WAY TO STRONG BODIES!!


PORO (DRIP)
ぽろ
UU...
PORO
ぽろ
AAH...


WAAAAAH!!!

Translation Notes

Page 78
The *katonk* in the first panel is the sound of a pail being set down on a tile floor. Japanese people generally shower and wash their hair outside the bathtub and just use the bath to soak. After getting washed up but before getting into the bath, they'd typically rinse the soap off with a pail of water. Especially at large public bathhouses, the sound of the pail being set down echoes loudly, and the sound has come to be connected with bathing in general. In this case, the sound effect is just being used for atmosphere.

Page 116
The cuisine from Marcille's hometown (ramen) includes a soft-boiled egg in its ingredients. In traditional ramen, this soft-boiled egg is peeled and marinated in soy sauce before being added to the soup.

Page 117
***Sara udon*, or "plate udon," is a Japanese noodle dish influenced by Chinese cuisine that was created in Nagasaki. Sara udon consists of a bed of noodles (either thin, crispy, fried noodles or thicker Chinese noodles) topped with cabbage, bean sprouts, and other vegetables, plus squid, shrimp, fish cake, or pork in a thick, savory sauce. Aside from the name, the dish has almost nothing in common with regular udon, but the name is what Laios has picked up on. Regular udon is a noodle soup served in a bowl, while sara udon is served on a plate.**

Page 237
The dish shown at the bottom is *takoyaki*, or octopus dumplings. They are made of a savory wheat-flour batter with diced octopus, tempura scraps, pickled ginger, and green onion mixed in. After the takoyaki are cooked, they are topped with a special takoyaki sauce, mayonnaise, bonito shavings, and bits of dried green seaweed, then speared with toothpicks and eaten.

Page 239
In the final panel of the original, Laios says, "At any rate!!" as a way to change the subject while not confirming or denying Chilchuck's accusation. The phrase used is actually an unintentional pun on his part While its kanji (Chinese characters) are almost never used to write out the phrase in Japanese, one of the characters comes from the "horned rabbit" phrase Shuro mentions in panel 4 on this page. Incidentally, the phrase existed long before these kanji were assigned, and the characters were chosen for their phonetic value rather than their meaning.

To be continued...


MISC. MONSTER TALES
12
DOPPELGÄNGER
IT'S AN OCTOPUS.
YES, IT IS.
BUT AN OCTOPUS COULDN'T CONVINCINGLY FAKE BEING HUMAN.
HOW COULD IT MAKE EIGHT LEGS LOOK LIKE TEN FINGERS?
THEY DON'T HAVE TO.
THE CLEVEREST PART OF THEIR MIMICRY IS THE COLORATION FROM THEIR PIGMENT CELLS.
1. COPY THE GENERAL SHAPE.
2. ADJUST THE DETAILS WITH COLOR.
IT CAN USE A WHOLE RANGE OF SHADES TO RECREATE TEXTURES AND DEPTH.
HEY. YOU'RE RIGHT.
ONCE IT UNDERSTANDS THE SUBJECT BETTER, IT TRANSFORMS.
IT BENDS PROPERLY AT THE JOINTS...
...AND ITS HEAD IS WHERE IT SHOULD BE.
THESE CREATURES ARE BOTH CLEVER AND GOOD AT MIMICRY.


OH, WE'RE NOT THAT GREAT.
HEY! IT COPIED ME...
I'M STILL A NOVICE.
AND MODEST BESIDES.
SAY, WE'RE IN A PRETTY TOUGH SPOT RIGHT NOW.
GOT ANY GOOD IDEAS?
YOU'RE ASKING THE OCTOPUS!?
HM. IN OTHER WORDS...
THE WINGED LION IS ACTUALLY A DEMON...
...AND IT'S PLOTTING TO REACH THE SURFACE AND EAT HUMAN DESIRES!
HUH?
IT TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MARCILLE'S WEAKNESS...
...AND SHE CLASHED WITH THE CANARIES, WHO ARE TRYING TO KEEP THE DEMON IN CHECK!
THAT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT.
HE'S GOOD AT SUMMARIZING TOO.
AND YOUR USUAL BEAT-IT-AND-EAT-IT STRATEGY WON'T WORK.
THAT IS TOUGH.
IT'S SHARPER THAN THE REAL ONE.
LET'S TRADE 'IM OUT.
THERE'S JUST ONE WAY OUT OF THIS!!
OHH!?
NAMELY—
NAMELY!?
LAIOS, YOU BECOME THE DUNGEON'S LORD!!
THEN USE THE WINGED LION'S POWER TO ESCAPE TO THE SURFACE. PROBLEM SOLVED!!
I'M NOT A FAN OF CEPHALOPODS.
GOOD IDEAS ARE HARD TO COME BY.
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C


WHAT ARE THOSE MONSTERS CALLED?
I'VE NEVER SEEN MOST OF THOSE.
PIGS WITH WINGS...
...AND RABBITS WITH ANTLERS?
MARCILLE'S ARMY
I MEAN, IF A PIG SPROUTS WINGS...
...OR A RABBIT HAS ANTLERS, SO WHAT?
HUH!?
I DON'T THINK THEY CAN BE REAL "MONSTERS."
NO?
I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE MARCILLE CAME UP WITH THEM?
AREN'T THOSE JACKALOPES?
WINGED PIGS AND HORNED RABBITS AREN'T SCARY AT ALL.
I REALLY DOUBT THEY CAN BE "MONSTERS."
DUNGEON RABBITS ARE A DIFFERENT STORY.
I FEEL LIKE WHEN PEOPLE THINK...
"IT WOULD BE SCARY IF THAT EXISTED."
...THOSE FEARFUL IMAGININGS AND MONSTERS MUST BE CLOSELY RELATED.


HM?
JACKA-LOPES!
RABBITS WITH HORNS.
SOMETIMES THEY'RE SPOTTED UP TOP, AND PEOPLE MAKE A FUSS...
...BUT NOBODY'S ACTUALLY FOUND ONE.
I ASSUMED THEY PROBABLY JUST WEREN'T REAL...
...BUT I GUESS THEY LIVE IN THE DUNGEON.
THERE'S A SAYING THAT GOES...
..."FURRED TORTOISE, HORNED RABBIT."
IT MEANS A THING IS IMPOSSIBLE OR DOESN'T EXIST.
SAME FOR THAT FLYING PIG OVER THERE...
IT'S PART OF ANOTHER SAYING THAT MEANS "IMPOSSI-BLE."
SO IT'S LIKE A HIPPO-GRIFF?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THEM? HOW ODD.
HUH?
HUH?
I BET YOU FIGURED ...
...THERE WAS NO WAY MARCILLE COULD KNOW ABOUT A MONSTER YOU DIDN'T.
DOKI (BADMP)
N-NO! THAT'S NOT—
REEEALLY?
......
WHEN PIGS FLY!!
OH!
WELL, UM, THEY ARE—
ANYWAY! WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT MARCILLE, FAST!

12

DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

RYOKO KUI

Translation: Taylor Engel **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

Yen Press
150 West 30th Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10001

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First Yen Press Edition: May 2023
Edited by Abigail Blackman & Yen Press Editorial: Thomas McAlister
Designed by Yen Press Design: Andy Swist

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2017932141

ISBNs: 978-1-9753-6798-5 (paperback)
978-1-9753-6799-2 (ebook)

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

WOR

Printed in the United States of America